CONCENTRATION CAMPS COMMISSION.

5

REPORT

ON THE

CONCENTRATION CAMPS IN SOUTH AFRICA,

BY THE

COMMITTEE OF LADIES

APPOINTED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR;

CONTAINING

REPORTS ON THE CAMPS IN NATAL, THE ORANGE RIVER COLONY, AND THE TRANSVAAL.

Presented to Parliament by Command of His Majesty.

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Shri Brihad Bhartiya Samaj

on 31 October, 2019

CONCENTRATION CAMPS COMMISSION.

GENERAL REPORT.

Para. 1.—Having been entrusted by the Imperial Government with the task of inquiring into the condition of the concentration camps in South Africa, with the view of ascertaining (1) in what way charitable funds collected in England could best be used to improve the conditions of camp life; (2) whether in our judgment alterations in the general organisation of the camps were desirable; and (3) whether their geographical position should be changed, our first task was to draw up a list of the chief points to which on arrival at the camps our inquiry should be directed.

These are as follows:—

1. Water supply, including arrangements for washing clothes and bathing.
2. Sanitation and disposal of refuse.
3. Housing, with particular inquiry into ventilation, overcrowding, trenching and drainage.
4. Rations.
5. Kitchens, whether central or private.
6. Fuel.
7. Position of slaughter places, with particular inquiry into cleansing.
8. Beds and bedding.
9. Clothing.
10. Shops. Are prices regulated?
11. Hospital accommodation; isolation of infectious cases; medical and nursing staff; are numbers adequate? supply of drugs and medical comforts; care of convalescents.
12. Camp matrons.
13. Resident clergymen.
14. Discipline and morals.
15. Education.
16. Occupations: *e.g.*, gardening, brickmaking, shoemaking, &c., nursing, sewing, dressmaking, &c.
17. Orphans, how cared for?
18. Local committees.
19. A return of the deaths which have taken place in camp, showing the ages of those who have died.
20. How many women have applied for permission to leave camp life altogether to join relatives in other parts of South Africa?
21. Are servants allowed, and if so are they rationed?
22. The reverent treatment of the dead, including the provision of a clean and orderly mortuary and cemetery, suitable coffins, shrouds, &c.

To these 22 points of inquiry we had originally added another, aimed at discovering the ordinary death rate of the district among the white population, but as we soon discovered that there had been no record kept of births and deaths, we were compelled to omit this from our list.

Para. 2.—It is impossible to indicate in any general manner the nature of the replies which we received to the foregoing inquiries. The differences existing between different camps are so striking that it would be misleading to attempt any but a very few generalisations concerning them, and the answers to our inquiries must be sought in the separate reports given on each camp.

We endeavoured, as far as circumstances permitted, to make surprise visits to the camps, and with this object we did not invariably pursue the most direct and obvious route from camp to camp. In no case, it is unnecessary to say, did we announce beforehand our proposed visit to the superintendent.

Para. 3.—*The best use to be made of charitable funds.*—We draw attention first to the best use which can be made of charitable funds. We have visited every concentration camp in South Africa, with the exception of the one at Port Elizabeth, viz., Mafeking, Vryburg, Irene, Johannesburg, Nylstroom, Pietersburg, Potchefstroom, Krugersdorp, Ollerksdorp, Barberton, Belfast, Middelburg, Balmoral, Vereeniging, Heidelburg, Standerton, and Volksrust, under

the Transvaal Administration; Kimberley, Orange River, Norvals Pont, Aliwal North, Bethulie, Springfontein, Bloemfontein, Brandfort, Kroonstad, Vredefort Road, Winburg, Heilbron, and Harrismith, under the administration of the Orange River Colony; and Howick, Pietermaritzburg, and Merebank, near Durban, in Natal. We have moreover paid a second visit to a not inconsiderable number of these camps. We therefore feel in a position to say that as far as the necessaries of life are concerned, viz., the provision of food, fuel, shelter and clothing, the Governments of the several Colonies are alive to their responsibilities in these matters, both to the people in the camps and to the taxpayers on whom the expense must ultimately fall.

Para. 4.—*Rations in the various Colonies.*—In the Transvaal we found the ration per head per week to be:—

7 lbs. of meal or flour,
4 oz. salt,
6 oz. coffee,
12 oz. sugar,
3 lbs. meat,
1 lb. rice,

besides soap and fuel. Children have the same as adults, with the exception of meat; of this, if they are under 12, they receive half rations; over 12, everyone is considered an adult. Milk (tinned) is issued in most Transvaal camps at the rate of one quart bottle per day to each child under three or five, and to persons of any age on doctor's orders. The fuel ration varies with the local supply of coal and wood, but is ample in most Transvaal camps.

In the Orange River Colony the ration per head per week was—

5¼ lbs. meal,
7 ozs. salt,
7 ozs. coffee,
14 ozs. sugar,
3½ lbs. meat,
$\frac{7}{12}$ tin condensed milk.
½ lb. rice.*

Children receive the same as adults. The allowances of soap and fuel varies from camp to camp. The lowest ration of fuel which we found in any camp was 7 lbs. per head per week, and we recommended this should be raised.

In Natal the ration per head per week was:—

	Adults.	Children 5–12.	Children under 5.
Bread	7 lbs.	3½ lbs.	—
†Meat	4 „	3 „	—
Potatoes (or equivalent)	3½ „	3½ „	—
Coffee	7 oz.	7 oz.	—
Sugar	14 „	14 „	—
Salt	3½ „	3½ „	—
Oatmeal	—	—	3½ lbs.
Milk	—	—	4 tins
Wood	14 lbs.	14 lbs.	7 lbs.

The people also receive candles and soap, at the rate of one candle per tent every other day, and 4 lbs. soap once a week to a family of seven persons.

The ration scale may, perhaps, convey more to the ordinary housekeeper if we append copies of a few specimen ration tickets:—

TRANSVAAL TICKET.

Aletta Labuschagne.		31½ lbs. flour.
No. in family:		3¾ „ sugar.
Children	2 (one under 5)	1½ „ coffee.
Adults	3	1 „ salt.
	—	4 „ rice.
Total	5	13 „ meat.
		1 bar soap.

To this should be added a daily bottle of milk for the baby.

* Rice was added on the recommendation of the Commission.

† If meat be lean, ¾ oz. of dripping or fat bacon is substituted for an equal quantity of meat daily.

Natal Ticket.

No. 93.
Name of family—Mosterl.

Adults,	Children over 5,	Children under 5,
3	4	0

Bread, 5 lbs. a day
Meat, 3 lbs. 7 oz. a day
Potatoes, 3½ lbs. a week
Coffee, 3 lbs. 1 oz. a week
Sugar, 6 lb. 2 oz. a week
Soap, 4 lbs.
*Tinned milk, 4 tins.

* The milk was for an old lady of 70.

Orange River Colony Ticket.

No. of ticket 346.
Name—Mrs. J. A. van Niekerk—No. in family, 7.
Weekly ration—24½ lbs. meat.
36¾ „ meal or flour
3 „ 1 oz. coffee
3 „ 1 „ salt
6 „ 2 „ sugar
4 tins condensed milk
3½ lbs. rice

Another ration ticket in another Transvaal Camp ran:—

Jacoba van der Meuve.
No. in family 4, all over 12 therefore counted as adults.

28 lbs. flour
1½ „ coffee
1 „ salt
4½ „ sugar
4 „ rice
12 „ meat

To this must be added fuel and soap; and in this camp every head of a family at the time of our visit was receiving 1 lb. Quaker oats once a week as a gift from a Cape Town Society. The quality of the grocery ration was extremely good: raw coffee in the bean was being issued in most of the Transvaal camps and then an additional weight was usually allowed. We occasionally met with loyal English people in the camps, and these were generally full of gratitude for the excellent rations they were receiving. One said, "Look at this beautiful bread, look at my bag of meal left over from our last rationing day. Can we complain? I say that if we grumble it is for the sake of grumbling," and so on. In another camp a "health committee" of camp ladies interviewed our Commission, and laid various complaints before us. One member of the committee said very little, but stayed behind after the rest and said, "I am a loyal English woman. I have two sisters loyalist refugees at the coast. I should be very happy if I thought they were half as well off as we are in this camp."

Besides ordinary rations of food and fuel, the government in each camp have issued blankets and clothing, varying in value with the size and necessities of the camp. Valuable gifts of clothing have also been received from private societies in nearly all camps.

Para. 2.—As regards the supply of medical comforts, a most liberal and ample provision has been made by the Colonial Administrations: they include

brandy, champagne, port wine, arrowroot, Chollet's compressed vegetables, tinned chickens, jellies, and all kinds of invalid food, hospital appliances, even in some camps water-beds and water-pillows. The cost of medical comforts alone in the various camps of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony comes to more than 7,000*l.* a month.

Para. 6.—Considering the ample provision of all necessaries for the healthy and of necessaries and luxuries for the sick which has been made, it is rather difficult to find a suitable channel into which to direct the flow of private charity. It is well known to all experienced in such matters that the indiscriminate distribution of charitable relief, whether in England or South Africa, by private individuals or by the State, has a demoralising effect upon its recipients; and we regret to say that in nearly every camp we heard of instances of deception and even fraud arising from the importunity of the least deserving and the difficulty of distinguishing between real and pretended destitution.

Para. 7.—It must be remembered that it has been part of the policy of the Administrations to offer a good deal of paid employment, at moderate wages, to the inmates of the camps. (In some camps the number of people receiving wages from the Superintendent is more than 150.) Moreover, if the camp is in the neighbourhood of a town, or of public works undertaken by the Government, able-bodied men have the opportunity of earning wages at the usual Colonial rates, which are high as judged by English standards. At Pietermaritzburg men in camp are, in a large number of cases, able to earn good wages in the town. These were for a time supplied with free rations in the camp, but it will be easily understood that this caused serious dissatisfaction in labour circles in the town; and the objection to this subsidised labour became sufficiently serious to procure a pledge that the free rationing of competitors in the labour market should cease. The material well-being of each camp is favourably affected by the fact that in addition to the supply of the necessaries of life to each individual free of charge, there is a considerable purchasing power created by the wages given by the Administrations for work done for the sole benefit of the camp or earned by camp people working at their ordinary pursuits outside.*

Every camp is provided with a shop or shops in which prices are regulated under martial law. In all of these, with two exceptions, we found an ample supply of, and a ready sale for, such articles as sardines, sweets, bottled fruits, tobacco, candles, tinned salmon and other fish, golden syrup, lemon syrup, jam, biscuits, lard, butter, &c., not to speak of such luxuries as silk blouses, gramophones, concertinas, jewellery, watches, sewing machines, and eau de Cologne.†

Para. 8.—Experienced philanthropic workers who had spent many weeks or months in one or more of the concentration camps confirmed the impression we had already formed that the indiscriminate distribution of clothing was doing more harm than good. Instances were brought before us of the sale at less than their cost price, in the nearest town, of such articles as boots, or pieces of dress material, which had been freely, and, no doubt, with most generous intentions, given away in camp. Therefore, with some trifling exceptions, in which, from the fund placed at our disposal by the Victoria League, we supplemented in a few camps the supply of medical comforts, or established a soup kitchen, we have recommended that the main body of the fund should be used for the promotion and development of education.

Para. 9.—It must not be supposed that we believe the distribution of clothing in all cases to be unnecessary or harmful. In some it is imperative. For instance, if a case of scarlet fever is discovered in a tent, it may be necessary to burn all the infected clothing. In such cases the Superintendent should make good the loss from stores under his control, and in all camps

* For example, we have seen from the wages books of superintendents that in some cases families are receiving wages for work done in camp amounting to 17*l.* a month. The monthly labour bill in the Transvaal camps alone amounted in August to 5,506*l.* 15*s.* 10*d.* paid to inmates of the camps.

† The Director of Civil Supplies now vetoes the conveyance to the camp shops of articles of pure luxury.

there will be certain cases of destitution to be provided for. Charitable persons, who desire to benefit our camps by gifts of clothing, should, in our opinion, do so through the Superintendent or through the organisation created by him for dealing with charitable relief. It is the indiscriminate gifts of irresponsible persons, taking no heed of what is being done by others, which have proved harmful and demoralizing.

Para. 10.—*Camp Schools*—It must always be remembered as a circumstance most creditable to the Administrations concerned that very soon after the camps were started, a systematic effort was made to provide the means of education free of charge for the children contained in them. School shelters were provided consisting at first of frame houses, or marquees. In October and November 1901, these were being replaced by solid but well-ventilated structures made either of sun-dried brick or stone and roofed with a sail cloth. These rooms are capable of accommodating 120 children each, and they only cost 30*l.* apiece, including the boarding for the seats. School furniture of a rough but practical kind is provided as well as school books, reading sheets, slates, and other apparatus; and last, but not least, a paid staff of teachers at the expense of the Colonial Governments. Mr. Sargant was appointed in February 1901, Commissioner for Education in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, and more recently (and only so far as camp schools are concerned) for Natal. It was no light task to get into working order in 33 camps spread over the vast area of the Transvaal, Orange River Colony, and Natal, the apparatus, animate and inanimate, for providing education for the children in them. The formation of the camps offered in reality an unique opportunity for placing the means of education within the reach of the Boer children. Hitherto they have been scattered over a very sparsely populated country, with miles of open veldt separating family from family. Under such circumstances the difficulties of securing education for the children are so obvious that they need no description. But in the camps a school was provided within a stone's throw, or at the utmost within 10 minutes' walk, from the dwelling of each child. This opportunity the Government lost no time in availing themselves of, and under the able direction of Mr. Sargant, the camp schools now offer the most cheerful and hopeful characteristic of camp life.

Para. 11.—Our Commission offered criticism in several instances on the quality of the teachers and teaching provided. There is no wonder that this should have been called for. If the circumstances of the Colonies in question are taken into account, with all the ordinary occupations of civil life interrupted by warfare, the wonder is not that crowds of first-rate teachers were not available, but that the teaching was as good and as full of vivacity as it really was. But in nearly every camp there was a flourishing school, crowded by eager and intelligent children, keen to learn English, and ready to be interested in all that their teachers had to offer in the way of education, physical and mental. Mr. Sargant informed our Commission that, taking the camps one with another, at the end of October, two-thirds of the children of the school age were on the roll of the schools, and that the actual attendance was two-thirds of this. In some schools the number of children on the roll was as high as 75 or 80 per cent. of the children of the school age. It is said that at the beginning of December 1901 there were more children receiving education in the Orange River Colony than had ever been known in the history of the Orange Free State. We were informed by one of the education inspectors that the care and money which have been expended upon the education of the camp children had touched the imagination of some of the Boers. One old man was heard to exclaim that he believed the British must be God's chosen people after all, for he had never heard of any other nation paying for the education of the children of their enemies.* The schools are moreover open to other than children. In several, our Commission noted grown-up young men and women from 23 to 27 years of age, not ashamed to sit side by side with little children eager to learn and avail themselves of an opportunity of education, now probably for the first time within their reach. The pity was that the classes

* The camp schools down to September 30, 1901, had cost 7,245*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* This does not include Natal, nor the expenditure for refugee schools in towns.

were too large, and with many noteworthy exceptions (Klerksdorp, Belfast, Potchefstroom, Irene, Norvals Pont and Bloemfontein stand out prominently among these), the teaching left much to be desired. On speaking to Mr. Sargant on this point he dwelt on the difficulty he had encountered in securing the services of efficient teachers. Our Commission, after giving the matter most careful consideration, determined to recommend the Victoria League to place the residue of its fund at the disposal of Mr. Sargant for the purpose of improving the education in the camp schools, either by providing teachers in such subjects as hygiene and cooking, or by forming lending libraries of English books, by establishing prizes, or in any other way which his knowledge and experience might suggest.* Such a use of charitable funds is not liable to abuse; only those who deserve to benefit can obtain any share in them; and lastly, it does not encroach on those responsibilities which the Governments in the several Colonies have taken on themselves.

Para. 12.—*Camp Hospitals.*—While the schools are the most cheerful and hopeful feature presented by camp life, the organisation of the hospitals and the provision of "medical comforts" are the features which reflect the greatest credit on the Administrations which are responsible and on the medical and nursing staffs as a whole. The dispensaries are well stocked, and the supply of all kinds of invalid food and stimulants is practically unlimited. In one camp, which was in no way exceptional in this respect, the dispenser said, "I have been for many years an assistant in one of the leading chemists "in Bond Street, and I should not be ashamed to compare my stock with "his." It is unnecessary, however, to point out that the efficiency of a hospital does not depend on a liberal supply of mechanical appliances, drugs and medical comforts, all of which can be, and are, ordered and paid for without stint by the Governments concerned. Real success depends on the medical and nursing staff. In the majority of instances these left nothing to be desired. Doctors and nurses were skilful, gentle, firm, and untiring in their devotion to their work—some of them have died at their posts. But in the few instances where the personal equation was on the wrong side everything went wrong, and the results were disastrous. Scarlet fever cases left in a hospital marquee with other patients; diphtheria "contacts" kept in close contiguity with diphtheria patients; children with measles actually on them moved from unhealthy into healthy camps. All these things have been done, and the disasters which followed have swelled the death rate and brought discredit on camp administration. But our Commission, while not shrinking from pressing the responsibility for these things where it was due, feel that it is only justice to say that they were entirely exceptional; that as a rule, and with immense difficulties to overcome, the medical staff and the trained nurses deserve the highest credit for the efficiency of their hospitals. In one camp hospital a medical member of the Commission saw operations performed which she said would have reflected credit on the best equipped hospital in London, and in numerous instances both the medical members of the Commission reported that all that human skill and care could do was being done for the sick in hospital. The difficulties of the Administration have been greatly enhanced by the difficulty of obtaining a sufficient supply of good doctors and trained nurses for camp work. Sometimes those who were sent from England and elsewhere proved unfit and had to be got rid of. For a long time it was impossible to have what would have been so desirable all along, a reserve of efficient medical officers and nurses who could have been sent to any camp where their services were called for by special emergency.

Para. 13.—*General organisation of the Camps.*—As the success of schools depends on getting good teachers, and of hospitals on getting good doctors and nurses, so even more emphatically does the successful organisation of a camp depend upon getting a good superintendent. Good water, a good slope, efficient drainage and sanitation, and an ample supply of fuel are important elements in making a good camp, but the most important of all is to be found

* In acknowledging a letter from our Commission on this point, Mr. Sargant wrote, "If the "money of which you speak is placed at my disposal, I will do my best to use it for educational "purposes to which Government funds could not be easily applied." At the date of the signing of this report, December 12, 1901, this application of the funds of the Victoria League had not been confirmed.

in the character and capacity of the superintendent. And here, in the most critical of all the official appointments, the difficulty of selection was the greatest. If anyone wants a doctor, a teacher, or a nurse, there are institutions to which application can be made where these are trained and equipped for their work. But there has never been a training school for camp superintendents. The work was entirely new, and the men had to learn their work by doing it with no one to help them, and with the benefit of no one's experience but their own. We desire, speaking generally, to bear our testimony to the devotion to duty, practical ability, vigilance, firmness, and kindness of the camp superintendents. Reference has already been made to the differences existing between different camps. It might have been imagined that with much the same people to deal with, the same rations (within the limits of each Colony) to distribute, and the same general principles of organisation, one camp would be almost an exact counterpart of another. Nothing can be further from the truth. Each has its own distinctive character, its own excellences and defects, and it is, therefore, almost impossible to make generalisations about the camps taken in the mass, for what is true of one camp is often untrue of others. Each camp bears the impress of the character and capacity of its superintendent, and in going through a camp one could almost see what sort of man had been placed at its head.

Para. 14.—We felt it our duty on more than one occasion to recommend the removal of a superintendent from his post. We are glad to be able to state that in none of these cases was it necessary to recommend this course on account of undue harshness or want of feeling for the people under his charge, but simply because from such reasons as age, feeble health, or natural lack of governing and organising capacity, we felt he was unequal to the constant strain the position involves. It is not easy for those who have not seen something of the work to realise its strain. It is not merely that the camp superintendents have long hours of work, from 13 to 16 a day, but it is a peculiarly wearing kind of work. No camp superintendent can give an order and take his mind from the subject confident that the order will be carried out; the most ceaseless supervision, renewed hour by hour and day by day, is necessary to ensure the methodical carrying out of the simplest and most obvious orders. These superintendents are constantly in their camps overlooking everything, knowing everybody, and knowing also precisely what work is expected from each individual in return for wages paid. Nothing is done, and everything goes wrong, if the eye of the superintendent is withdrawn even for an hour. He requires a rare combination of mental and moral gifts and qualities. He must control almost wholly by personal influence some thousands of people wholly unaccustomed to discipline. Some camps have a wired-in enclosure for the unruly; some have "dirty lines," otherwise called "Hogs' Paradise," for the incorrigibly filthy; in some camps rations are docked as a disciplinary measure, but this is rare, and is almost universally regarded as unsatisfactory, for it punishes the children for the faults of their parents. Cases of actual crime can, of course, be handed over to the Magistrate or Provost Marshal. But, speaking generally, the discipline of a camp rests on the personal weight and authority of the superintendent. Justice and strict impartiality on his part are, of course, of the greatest importance, but he must also be kind and inexhaustibly patient. At the same time he must be a man who knows how to make himself obeyed. He must have a knowledge of sanitation and be enough of an engineer to know how to make the best use of his water supply. He should take an interest in education. He must acquire the art of making the doctors, the nurses, the clergyman, and the schoolmaster work under him, and in sympathetic co-operation with him, so that he is not merely the nominal but the actual chief of every department of camp life. He must also have business training and some of the aptitudes of a grocer and cornfactor. If he can add to these acquirements a practical knowledge of gardening and half a dozen other industries such as brickmaking, tanning, carpentering, &c., he is the ideal camp superintendent. It is unnecessary to say that this ideal person is not often found in South Africa or elsewhere, but we feel the highest admiration for the spirit with which, as a body, the camp superintendents have grappled with the difficult task entrusted to them. We desire to add that it

is not the firm and strict superintendent who is unpopular in his camp, but rather the man of weak character who does not know how to rule, who shows timidity or favouritism, or becomes the dupe of impostors. The Englishman is, generally speaking, more successful as a camp superintendent than the man of Dutch or Boer parentage; the bitterest complaints addressed to us in camp against superintendents were directed against men of Dutch origin. The people would say they preferred a "Verdomnde Rooinek" to a "Schelm" of a Boer. Speaking generally, we found that for positions of authority in the camps, especially where the distribution of gifts or favours of any kind was concerned, the people decidedly preferred an Englishman or Englishwoman to one of themselves. Constant charges of favouritism, in such positions, were preferred against their own people.

Para. 15.—*The question of passes to enter or leave Camps.*—In nearly all camps passes are required for outsiders to enter, or for residents to leave. This has been represented in some quarters as a hardship. It is, we conceive, an absolute necessity. If people are free to come and go as they please and unrestricted intercourse is allowed between a camp and the surrounding country, rations, clothing, and bedding served out in the camps at the Government expense could be freely conveyed to the enemy in the field, who are, in many instances, only a few miles away. A woman leaving one of the Orange River Colony camps, with her goods and chattels packed on a wagon, was challenged by a sentry; the wagon was searched and found to contain 240 lbs. flour, 40 lbs. salt, 28 lbs. rice, 22 lbs. coffee, besides tea, candles, soap, and milk. She signed an affidavit that they were surplus rations accumulated by her while in camp. This was obviously impossible, as tea and candles do not form part of the regular ration. But, however acquired, they were undoubtedly intended for the Boers in the field. In another camp, women were caught attempting to convey men's clothing, bought in the camp shop, to the Boers on commando in the immediate neighbourhood. Facts such as these, of which almost every camp could give instances, illustrate the impossibility, as long as the war lasts, of allowing free intercourse between the camps and the outside world. For the same reason, the right to purchase grocery or clothing in the camp store is in some camps limited to one sovereign's worth of goods for one person at one time. Those who require more must get a special permit from the Superintendent.*

Questions of health and morals also have an important bearing on allowing free intercourse between camp and town. The presence of scarlet fever, diphtheria, or other infectious diseases in either town or camp often makes a strict quarantine absolutely necessary. It is obvious also that a defined area is desirable from the point of view of cleanliness. It is much easier to ensure attention to sanitary regulations if the camp area is properly defined. As regards morals, we did not receive, though we went freely and unaccompanied among the people in every camp, any complaint against our soldiers. In view of the false accusations made in some quarters, and also as a reasonable precaution necessary for the protection and discipline of both, we found an invariable rule in every camp that military camps were out of bounds for concentration camps and *vice versâ*. Far from disapproving of cutting off free communication between the concentration camps and the neighbouring town or surrounding country, we are disposed to recommend the controlling of ingress and egress more thoroughly than is the case in many camps at present. We believe that every camp would benefit by being surrounded by a fence with gates where police or sentries should be posted, to see that no one entered or departed without coming under observation. Under martial law the ordinary civilian is required to provide himself with a pass before he can go freely about the town in which he may have lived all his life. Another pass is required before he can be permitted to go beyond the outposts, and a third to enable him to be abroad at night. If these regulations as against British loyalists are necessary in war time as a military precaution, why

* The general public may hardly be aware that the right of unlimited purchase on the part of the ordinary civil as well as military population is suspended during war time. In many districts the whole civil population were put on rations, the main difference between them and the inmates of the concentration camps being that the former paid for their rations while the latter received them gratis.

should unrestricted right to come and go as they please be extended to the inmates of the concentration camps, many of whom are near relatives of men still in commando fighting against us ?

Para 17.—*Applications for permission to reside in Camps.*—It may cause surprise in some quarters to learn that voluntary applications to enter camps are by no means infrequent. The General Officer Commanding at Harrismith informed us that he had for some weeks ceased to bring people compulsorily into the camp at that place; nevertheless there were almost daily arrivals on the part of persons seeking permission to come in. Some arrived on the second day of our visit, having driven 28 miles through very bad weather. We have had handed to us copies of letters received by the Superintendent-General of Burgher Camps in Natal, asking leave to reside in camp. One of these was from the father of a family who stated that he was very anxious to come into camp, more particularly for the sake of the education of his children. He said he was quite willing to do any work he might be asked to do in camp without payment, in consideration of the educational benefits anticipated.

Para. 18.—*Local Committees.*—We desire to draw attention to considerations which, in our opinion, would justify the Governments of the Orange River Colony, the Transvaal, and Natal in placing very strict limitations upon the activities of the ladies and gentlemen who are known colloquially as "local committees." Most of these committees have only had a short-lived existence, but in about five cases we found the town or village nearest to a camp had furnished a group of persons who had expressed their desire to visit the camp at regular intervals, to investigate cases of sickness and destitution, distribute gifts and so on. Such a group is known as a "local committee." As long as they are content to work from purely philanthropic motives, and are not merely cloaking a political object under the guise of philanthropy, it would seem both cruel and unnecessary to check their activities. But is it reasonable to expect, with the country actually at war, that the British Government should allow their political and military enemies to obtain control of the camps which are being run at British expense? In several instances this has presented an actual danger. Under the specious guise of philanthropy, the local committees have aimed at the political control of the camps, and have endeavoured to overthrow the authority of the superintendents. The test which should be applied to every local committee is to find out whether they sincerely desire to help the camp people to make the best of their surroundings; how far, for instance, they have aided the women to face with energy and resource the difficulties presented by life under such novel conditions; or whether they secretly rejoice at everything which adds to the discomforts and sorrows of camp life because these strengthen the political animosity of Boer against Briton. If the latter be the case, or if there is a reasonable probability that it will be the case, local committees should be forbidden entrance into the camps. In our opinion, no local committee should be allowed a *locus standi* in any camp without the consent in writing of the Superintendent. This, no doubt, places great power in the hands of the Superintendent, and inspection and supervision, now provided, on our recommendation, in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony, are necessary to check abuse. But it is useless to put a man in a position of supreme authority in the camp and then allow that authority to be undermined by irresponsible persons who are not infrequently opposed to the supremacy of Great Britain in South Africa, and direct active and constant efforts to attain the end of its overthrow.

Para. 19.—*Recommendations respecting Camps in the Orange River Colony.*—On September 18 our Commission offered to the Deputy Administrator of the Orange River Colony the following recommendations:—

1. That a travelling Inspector of Camps should be appointed.
2. That compulsory labour for nine hours daily for the good of the camp for adult males should be made the rule in all camps.
3. That education should be compulsory for all of school age.
4. That serious cases of sickness should be compulsorily removed to hospital on doctor's orders. This not to apply to children under two years of age.

5. That an addition to the rations of ½ lb. of rice per head per week should be made.
6. That superintendents should be instructed to encourage the making in camps of cheap bedsteads, called kartels, so as to reduce to the smallest possible minimum the number of people sleeping on the ground. That wood for this purpose should be provided by the Government where there was none available locally.
7. That in places where there is no wood available for fuel, the coal ration should be raised to at least 1½ lb. per head per day.
8. That a strong effort should be made to increase the weekly truckage at present allowed for the supply of the Orange River Colony camps.
9. That every camp should be provided with the proper apparatus for disinfecting and boiling enteric linen.
10. That wherever practicable there should be boilers for serving out water boiling, as at Johannesburg, and that tinned milk should be issued to children mixed in the boiled water and not in the tin.
11. That a cablegram should be despatched to the Colonial Office asking that 40 trained nurses should be immediately sent out to South Africa for service in the O.R.C. camps, and that the selection of suitable nurses should be entrusted to the heads of specified hospitals and nursing institutions.

Para. 20.—It is a gratification to the Commission to be able to state that with the exception of compulsory education, all these recommendations were either immediately adopted or steps were taken to secure their adoption with as little delay as circumstances permitted. As regards compulsory education we waived our view in its favour in deference to Mr. Sargant's opinion that it would be impolitic at present. The travelling Inspector appointed by the Deputy Administrator is Mr. Cole Bowen, late Superintendent of the camp at Norvals Pont. He began his work in the middle of November and great advantage may be anticipated from it. He has a thorough knowledge of camp organisation and tact in carrying out his views; in moving from camp to camp he will be able to extend the knowledge of superintendents of the best features of other camps. Dr. Hime, formerly M.O.H. of Bradford and Sheffield, has been appointed medical adviser to Mr. Cole Bowen, and will accompany him in his tours of inspection.

Para. 21.—On November 12th we sent the following additional recommendations to the Deputy Administrators*:—

1. That boilers sufficient to boil all drinking water should be supplied to all camps as quickly as possible. As all cannot be served at once preference should be given to camps where the water supply is faulty.
2. That public bake ovens should be provided in all camps, the firing to be found by the Administration.
3. That now and throughout the hot season a ration of vegetables or lime juice should be added once a week to the existing rations, and that jam should be issued to sickly children on doctor's orders.
4. That in April, a ration of some kind of fat, such as dripping or lard, should be substituted for the summer ration of lime juice or vegetables.
5. Employ a water engineer to visit camps and help the Superintendents to make the best use of their water supply.
6. Urge the Home Government to lose no time in sending out at least 100 trained British teachers.
7. Instruct every Superintendent not to issue so small a ration of fuel as 1 lb. per head per day.
8. Appoint camp matrons as fast as suitable women can be found, and give them instructions based on the suggestions already handed to the Deputy Administrator. *See* Appendix A.
9. As soon as possible supplement the supply of food stuffs on sale in the camp shops at Vredefort Road and Heilbron.

* It will be observed that our first set of recommendations was handed to the Deputy Administrator on September 18th; the second on November 12th. At the earlier date we had only seen seven Orange River Colony camps; at the later date we had seen them all except one.

10. The disorganisation of the hospital at Brandfort, as detailed in our report, appears to us to call for immediate attention and action. We recommend that a competent medical officer of weight and standing be sent here at once to make a special report on the subject, and that while the present sickness lasts all possible help should be given to Brandfort in the supply of additional doctors and nurses.

Para. 22.—These recommendations were also either acted on immediately or steps were taken with a view to their adoption wholly or in part, as will be seen by a letter from the Deputy-Administrator, dated November 23rd, of which the following is an abstract:—

"The following are a few remarks upon your suggestions, showing what steps have already been taken, or are now being taken, to comply with the requirements you specify:—

1. *Boilers.*—Eleven of these are on the rail now and another 22 have been secured.
2. *Public Bake Ovens.*—Two ovens have been ordered in the Bloemfontein Camp as an experiment; if successful they will be supplied to all camps.*
3. *Vegetables, Lime Juice, &c.*—Medical officers have been instructed to serve out a ration of lime juice once a week. Steps are being taken to grow vegetables with good prospect of success. Jam has always been included among the medical comforts.
4. *Fat or Butter.*—Quotations for butter have been asked for.
5. *Water Engineer.*—This has been done already in several camps.
6. *Trained British Teachers.*—The Education Department has this matter in hand.
7. *The issue of Larger Fuel Rations.*—The necessary instructions have been given in a circular letter to all superintendents.
8. *Camp Matrons and their Instructions.*—This will be done, but there is considerable difficulty in finding suitable persons for these appointments.
9. *Supplies to Shopkeepers.*—The shopkeepers are receiving fresh supplies.
0. *Hospital at Brandfort.*—Steps are being taken. Another doctor and a trained nurse from England have been sent since the Commission was at Bloemfontein."

Para. 23.—*Transvaal Camps.*—Although several of the recommendations which we offered to the Military Governor of Pretoria in respect of the Transvaal Camps were similar to those which we had submitted to the Deputy-Administrator, our recommendations, taken as a whole, were not identical for the two Colonies, because several of the changes which we had advised in the O. R. C. were in actual operation in the Transvaal before our arrival. The following is a list of our chief recommendations to the Transvaal Administration:—

1. That a travelling inspector of camps should be appointed; we suggested Captain W. Bentinck for this post.†
2. That now and throughout the hot season a ration of lime juice or vegetables should be added to the existing rations.
3. That in April some kind of fat, such as dripping or lard, should be substituted for the summer ration of lime juice or vegetables.
4. That the supply of fresh meat should be carefully watched, and arrangements made beforehand that in the event of any failure of it "cold storage meat" should be procured. If this were impossible, camps should be removed to places where fresh meat can be obtained.

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* On November 28th Mr. Bowen wrote that he was having a public bake oven put up in the camp at Brandfort, and he was sure it would be a real boon to the people.

† On December 7th we were informed by letter from Johannesburg that Captain Bentinck had been appointed General Inspector of Transvaal Camps, and that he was to have one or more colleagues.

5. That boilers sufficient to boil all drinking water should be supplied to the camps as quickly as possible. As all cannot be served at once preference should be given to those camps where the water supply is unsatisfactory.
6. Employ a water engineer to visit the camps and help the superintendents to make the best use of their water supply.
7. That public bake ovens be provided in all camps, the firing to be supplied by the Administration. Preference to be given to those camps where the fuel supply is scanty.
8. Instruct every Superintendent not to issue so small a fuel ration as 1 lb. per head per day.
9. Provide every camp with the apparatus for disinfecting and boiling the linen of enteric patients.
10. That a ration of milk,* one bottle a day, should be issued for each child under five years old. We found this being done in some Transvaal camps, and consider it should be done in all of them. This supply of milk should be in addition to the other rations and not in lieu of them.
11. All Superintendents should have strongly represented to them the importance, from the point of view of health, of reducing to a minimum the number of people sleeping on the ground. They should be urged to encourage the making of kartels in camp, and where no local material is available, it should be supplied to each camp by the Government.
12. The rule requiring the compulsory removal of cases of serious illness to hospital under doctor's orders should be more strictly enforced. The rule, for good reasons, is not intended to apply to children under two years of age.
13. A reserve staff of doctors and nurses should be formed.
14. The sale of "Dutch medicines" in camps should not only be discouraged, but definitely prohibited.
15. That the work of camp matrons and their assistants should be organised on the lines indicated in "Suggestions for Camp Matrons," which has been drawn up partly from the official circular No. 87, and partly from the Commission's own paper on the subject. (*See* Appendix A.)
16. That each Superintendent should be allowed a sufficient supply of transport animals, to allow him to deal efficiently with the sanitation and water supply of his camp.

We believe that almost all these recommendations have been either adopted by the Burgher Camps Department, Pretoria, or that steps have been taken to secure their adoption with as little delay as possible.

Para. 24.—*Natal Camps.*—There are at present only three concentration camps in Natal—Howick, Pietermaritzburg, and Merebank, near Durban, but we have recommended the formation of other camps on good sites; these new camps to be composed of drafts from the larger Transvaal camps.

The ration in Natal, as described on pp. 2 and 3, is different from that of the other two Colonies, and better. In matters of sanitation and water supply, for drinking, washing clothes, and bathing, the Natal camps deserve to be described as first rate. The organisation of the Natal camps is, however, defective; the hospital accommodation and equipment, and the medical and nursing staffs have not been brought up to what is required; the schools are only now (December 1901) on the point of being taken over by the Education Department, and there is no method in the issue of rations. Howick and Pietermaritzburg camps are on well-chosen sites, on high ground with a good slope, but we formed an opinion strongly condemnatory of the site of Merebank. It is in a swamp, and unless it can be drained, it will continue to be hopelessly water-logged. We earnestly deprecate the continual sending of large drafts of people to Merebank in its present condition, and we both telegraphed

* This recommendation was subsequently amended, and one bottle of milk twice a day was advised for each child under three.

and wrote in this sense to the High Commissioner and to the Superintendent General of the Natal Camps immediately after our inspection of Merebank.

Para. 25.—On December 11th we also offered the following recommendations respecting the Natal Camps to the Superintendent-General :—

General Recommendations respecting Natal Camps.

1. We strongly urge that no camp should be allowed to exceed 3,000 in population.
2. All camps should be fenced. A certain number of morally undesirable people have been sent down from the Transvaal camps into Natal, and it is necessary for the protection of the neighbouring towns, villages, or military camps, that the movements of these people should be controlled. Notice should be required by the Natal authorities when people of this description are sent to them.
3. A general Inspector of Camps is required. He should be assisted by a doctor and a sanitary engineer. They should see some good camps in the other colonies before commencing their duties in Natal.
4. Camp matrons are urgently required in the Natal camps. Their work should be organised on the lines indicated in *Suggestions for Camp Matrons* (*see* Appendix A.).
5. Cable to England for at least 20 trained nurses for work in the hospitals, and for 12 district nurses to act as camp matrons. The selection in England should be entrusted to the matrons of certain specified institutions.
6. The method of issuing rations wants organisation. We would suggest the adoption of the block system (*see* Appendix C.).
7. Milk issued as a ration for children should be given out mixed with boiled water, and not in tins.
8. That every camp should be provided with the proper apparatus for disinfecting and boiling the linen of enteric patients and a destructor for stools.
9. That it should be represented to all superintendents that it is of great importance to reduce to the smallest possible minimum the number of people sleeping on the ground; that they should be urged to encourage the making of cheap bedsteads in camp, and where no local material is available for this purpose, the administration should provide it.
10. Cases of serious illness should be compulsorily removed to hospital on doctor's orders. This rule should not apply to infants under two years of age. The adoption of this rule would necessitate the increase of hospital accommodation and staff.
11. Three hours' compulsory labour, for the good of the camp, should be required from every able-bodied man.
12. A segregation camp for new-comers should be established in connection with each Natal camp.
13. Suitable material should be provided to enable families to make themselves neat shelters for cooking.

We feel that the fuel ration in Natal requires revision, but this is dealt with in our general recommendations on the subject of rations (*see* Appendix B.).

Our Commission broke up too soon after the handing in of these recommendations for us to learn what practical effect resulted from them.

Para. 26.—Passing in review the points to which reference has already been made, we arrive at the following conclusions :—

1. The schools are a piece of good work well started, but more and better teachers are required and better equipment. An additional supply of trained English teachers would be invaluable. The Colonial Office has been asked to arrange for this.
2. The hospitals, with exceptions, are well organised and efficient. The provision of drugs and medical comforts is most liberal, but in many instances more hospital accommodation, improved equipment, and increased staff are needed.
3. Grocery rations were excellent in quality. Meat all over the Orange River Colony and Transvaal was poor and thin. There was no fat stock in the country. In some places there was no stock at all, and the whole population, including the Boer camps, was being fed on "bully beef." Seeing that all camps are not likely to be of so temporary a character as was at first supposed, we recommended to the High Commissioner a revision of the ration scale as detailed in Appendix B.
4. The purchasing power of each camp in considerable. In so far as it is the result of wages paid for work done for the benefit of the camps it is not likely to diminish. On the other hand, in so far as it depends on the funds in the possession of the people when they came into camp, it must diminish as time goes on.
5. Camp superintendents, with two or three exceptions, were hard-working, capable, and conscientious. Those whom we reported to be inefficient were removed.

6. Some local committees have aimed at undermining the authority of the superintendents, and have acted in a manner calculated to keep alive and exasperate the bitter feeling between Boer and Briton. Permission to such committees to visit the camps should therefore be withdrawn.
7. The fencing of the camps and the restrictions on free ingress and egress are desirable from the point of view of health and morals.

Para. 27. *Causes of the high Death-rate in the Camps.*—Considering the favourable opinion which our Commission has formed in the majority of cases on the details of camp management which have a bearing on health, we are brought face to face with the difficult problem: How to account for the extraordinary high death-rate which at one time or another has prevailed, with few exceptions, in every camp in the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal. We use the expression "extraordinarily high death-rate"; but we should add that all our efforts to obtain statistical information upon the normal death-rate in South Africa have been unavailing. No vital statistics of any kind, whether of births or deaths, were kept in the Orange Free State or in the South African Republic. Every district surgeon and medical officer of health whom we had the opportunity of consulting informed us that the ordinary death-rate was very high, as judged by European standards; but how high no one could tell us.* In a number of individual cases we found families which had lost a very large number of children before coming into camp. A doctor, one of the ablest the Commission have met, told one of our members that he had recently come across the remnant of a family in which the parents had just lost 9 out of 10 of their children from dysentery, while they were following a commando before coming into camp.

Para. 28.—The high death-rate in camps may, we believe, be attributed to three groups of causes, viz.:—

1. The insanitary condition of the country caused by the war.
2. Causes within the control of the inmates of his camps.
3. Causes within the control of the administrations.

Para. 29.—1. *The Insanitary Condition of the Country produced by the War.*—Taking the first of these three groups of causes first into consideration, it is a truism to say that pestilence follows in the track of war. The whole country in which fighting has taken place is poisoned. Horses, mules, and oxen are killed during battles or die of overwork and exhaustion, and their carcasses are left to putrify, poisoning earth, air, and water. Thousands of other animals are infected; rinderpest, horse sickness, and every kind of disease claim their victims; the sick beasts crawl to the nearest stream and die on its brink, and the water supplies of a whole country become tainted or they die in the open country, the dust returns to the earth, and the dust storms for which South Africa is famous, scatter disease-laden particles over the length and breadth of the land. The insanitary condition of every country in which war is carried on is so clearly recognised that we believe it is a well-known fact that in every war at least two men die of disease for one who dies as the result of wounds. If strong men in the prime of life are struck down by exposure to these conditions, it is to be expected that women, and more especially children, should fall victims to the contamination of earth, air, and water which is the inevitable accompaniment of war. But this is not the only way in which war swells the death-rate among non-combatants. Ordinary industries, such as the production of food stuffs and the rearing of cattle, are brought to a standstill all over the theatre of war, with the consequence that in some districts no fresh meat, no fresh milk, and

* In Cape Colony no statistics are available showing the birth-rate and death-rate in the rural districts. Dr. Gregory, Medical Officer of Health for Cape Colony, has however compiled a series of statistics giving the number of births and deaths in the 32 principal towns of the Colony during a period covering the years 1896-1900. Dr. Gregory observes: "It will be see that "the infantile mortality, which is everywhere excessive, is in some parts of the Colony at all times "enormous: thus, in Beaconsfield, in these years the mortality among Europeans" (infants under one year) "varies between 250 and 314 per thousand, and among coloured between 449 "and 702 per thousand. In Cradock and Beaufort West, Prince Albert and Ondtshoom, the "same state of things is seen. In these places, and indeed throughout the Colony, both urban and "rural, the standard of sanitation is lamentable, overcrowding of dwellings, domestic filth, and "improper feeding being supreme." The average infantile death-rate in the years 1896–1900. in the 32 towns, was 181 per thousand.

no fruit or vegetables are obtainable for love or money. Over nearly the whole extent of the Orange River Colony and the Transvaal fresh meat is poor, thin, and comparatively innutritious. Sheep sometimes weighed as little as 11 lbs., and were considered really good if they weighed 25 lbs. Fresh vegetables were at famine prices; potatoes, 3*d.* each; cabbages, 5*s.* each; eggs, 7*s.* 6*d.* a dozen, were not uncommon prices. Fresh milk was so scarce that the whole supply had to be commandeered for the hospitals, and sometimes there was none even for the hospitals. Wherever a community of little children is found who have to be fed without fresh milk, fresh vegetables, or eggs, and sometimes without fresh meat, then a high death-rate will follow as certainly as night will follow day.

The heavy part of the death-rate in the camps is that of children under five. It is not because they are in camp, but because the war has exposed them to poisonous conditions of water and atmosphere, and has deprived them of the food suitable to their tender age. More is being done for them in camp, ten times more in the way of skilful doctoring, feeding and nursing, than could have been done for them had they remained on their fathers' farms. But in the one case every death is known and recorded, and in the other no one except their own families would ever have heard of it. The greater number of deaths in the camps during July, August, September, and October was due to pneumonia following measles. An extraordinary outbreak of septic pneumonia was taking place in South Africa, not in camps only, but in every section of the community however well fed, housed, and clothed. Disease is part of the price paid for war. The high death-rate is in a very large degree caused by economic and physical conditions produced by war, the rigour of which would probably have been as severely felt by the child population if they had been left on their farms.*

2. *Causes within the control of the Inmates of the Camps.*—We next call attention to the second group of causes to which we attribute the high death-rate; those, namely, for which the inmates of the camps are themselves responsible.

In what we are about to say we must speak plainly; but we have no desire to speak harshly. The Boer women have, with few exceptions, received us with kindness, and have answered our numerous questions with patience; and although we brought no gifts with us, have thanked us repeatedly, and with apparent cordiality, for our visit. But in estimating the causes of bad health in the camps it is necessary to put on record that every superintendent has to wage war against the insanitary habits of the people. However numerous, suitable, and well-kept may be the latrines provided, the fouling of the ground, including river banks, and slopes and trenches leading to the water supply, goes on to an extent which would probably not be credited except by those who have seen it. Constant vigilance, kept up night and day, is necessary to keep this pernicious habit within bounds. There is no camp which has not suffered from it more or less. The highly poisonous character of enteric excreta is well known. The extensive fouling of the floors of tents and the ground of camps by it has been the direct cause of a

* In Bird's Annals of Natal, Vol. 1, pp. 459–468, is an interesting letter written by Mrs. Steenekamp, describing the hardships suffered by the Boers in their struggle against the natives under Sikonyela and Dingaan in 1837–1840. The awful massacres in which 400 of their number were brutally murdered are vividly described; but what is of special interest in connection with our present inquiry is the description of the outbreak of illness in the laagers which had been formed for the better protection of the survivors of the massacre. Mrs. Steenekamp writes: "Oh, "my children, to live in so large a laager of a thousand wagons is hard, and it is also injurious to "cattle. In July our laager went as far as Bushman's River. Listen now, my children, to my "sad misfortunes. On 2nd February your beloved younger sister died." Then come further references to deaths by massacre. "On 23rd July your dear father died, and many others, your "nearest relations and acquaintances. The last cases of death were probably caused by the "dampness of our encampment, for nearly every day we had rain, and we could wear no shoes on "account of the mud." There was a terrible fire in the camp, in which ten persons were burned to death, and two severely injured. Mrs. Steenekamp says: "We bound the bones of those who "had perished in a counterpane and buried them in a hole." She continues: "Shortly after the "fire we were visited by measles, through which a great many deaths occurred; my old husband "and myself [Mrs. Steenekamp had married again] had alone to provide for 23 children and "grandchildren who were laid up, and who had to be attended by us, without house or tent, in "only a wagon. Several days I was so weak through these exertions that I could hardly "endure it."

devastating outbreak of enteric in more than one camp. Superintendents, doctors, nurses, camp matrons war against this habit. In one instance we even heard of a clergyman who preached against it. The more intelligent of the Boers in the camps are open-mouthed against it. But in every camp it remains a chronic danger, only kept in check, when it is kept in check, by supervision of the most rigorous and constant kind. It should be remembered that this habit, which is such a source of danger in camp life, where 5,000 or 6,000 people may be gathered together in a comparatively small area, is comparatively harmless in the life to which the average Boer is accustomed, where family is separated from family by miles of open country. Their inability to see that what may be comparatively harmless on their farms becomes criminally dangerous in camp is part of the inadaptability to circumstances which constitutes so marked a characteristic of the people as a race.

Para. 31.—Every camp has a rule, more or less successfully carried out, that every case of serious illness is, on doctor's orders, to be removed to hospital. Now, Boers, not unlike the more ignorant of the English poor, strongly object to hospital treatment for their children; consequently there are many cases of concealed illness nursed in the tents. When this illness is, as it often may be, diphtheria or measles, the risk of infection to the other children is brought as near a certainty as possible. For even at the best of times, and especially if anyone is sick in the tent, the Boer woman has a horror of ventilation; any cranny through which fresh air could enter is carefully stuffed up, and the tent becomes a hot-bed for the breeding of disease germs.

It is not easy to describe the pestilential atmosphere of these tents, carefully closed against the entrance of all fresh air. The Saxon word "stinking" is the only one which is appropriate. A person in rude health would suffer seriously from such an atmosphere. It is, therefore, no wonder that measles, once introduced, has raged through the camps and caused many deaths; because the children especially are enervated by the foul air their mothers compel them to breathe and fall more easy victims to disease than would be the case if the tents were fairly ventilated. Every camp has a rule that tent flaps are to be lifted daily; but the Boer women so hate fresh air that this rule is only, even in the best camps, very partially carried out. Every excuse is made use of to evade its execution, and at night, of course, as near as may be, every tent is hermetically sealed.

People are often under the impression that life in tents must be very healthy, and that it involves the benefits associated with the constant breathing of pure air. So it does if ventilation is properly attended to. But if the flaps are not lifted, a bell tent becomes pestilentially close and stuffy; consequently life in tents is lowering to vitality and prejudicial to health, unless special pains are taken to secure ventilation.

Para. 32.—A third cause of the high death-rate, for which the people themselves are responsible, is to be found in their extraordinary notions regarding the treatment of disease. Bathing the person is not, in health, commonly practised among men; in illness they regard the washing of the patient as next door to murder. This feeling is at the root of a good deal of their objection to the hospital. It would be possible to fill pages of this report with accounts of the extraordinary treatment adopted by Boer women for the supposed benefit of their sick children. Some of what are known generally as "Dutch medicines" or "droppels" contain laudanum. Many a child has fallen a victim to laudanum poisoning, caused by a too lavish dosing by its mother with these medicines. The sale is now forbidden or discouraged in most camps, but in too many instances the people still manage to obtain them, through "local committees" or casual visitors, or when they themselves obtain passes to the nearest town or village.

Para. 33.—Besides the pernicious "droppels," the Boer women resort to other and even more dangerous methods of treatment for their sick children. One woman, whose children were ill with measles, painted their bodies with common green oil paint, and in the case of one of them, added a plaster made of American leather thickly daubed with the same paint. This plaster was presented to the Commission as a medical curiosity. Both the children died

of arsenical poisoning. There was some talk of proceeding against their mother for manslaughter, but she had so obviously acted with no malicious intention that the idea was abandoned. Another woman, in a far distant camp, visiting in hospital her child, who had herpes round the mouth, seized the opportunity when the nurse's back was turned to paint its face and lips with vermilion oil paint. Fortunately, this was discovered while the paint was still wet and could be easily removed. Another woman, whose child was seriously ill with double pneumonia, varnished the whole of its chest and stomach, so that the poor little oppressed lungs were still more oppressed. This child was living when we saw it, but it had been impossible to get the varnish completely off. In one camp the dung of cows mixed with sulphur had been literally administered by mothers to their children. This produced diarrhœa, and when, later, measles appeared, the children were less able to withstand them. In another camp a newly-confined woman was found by the camp matron drinking a mixture of brick dust and brandy. We came across a large number of cases in which the dung of cows, goats, and pigs was being used medicinally. Sometimes it is made into a poultice, and sometimes a horrid drink is made with it. Dogs' blood is in great request as a medicine, and the comparatively harmless Reckitt's Blue is used as a cooling drink. A careful doctor in a Boer camp informed us that he abstained from the use of poisons even in liniments, for the patients were as likely as not to drink them. A camp nurse informed us that, in one instance, she had put a linseed poultice on a pneumonia patient, and returning presently to see how she was progressing, it was discovered that the woman had eaten the poultice. It is not, perhaps, unnatural that the Boers in camp should fail to understand the extreme care necessary in the feeding of enteric patients, but nurses and doctors have to be incessantly on the alert to prevent such things as dates, cakes, and lumps of meat being given to enterics by their relatives. This is also a difficulty with which every doctor in England is familiar, and, with regard to the character of the Boer domestic pharmacopœia, no doubt parallel horrors could be found in old-fashioned English family receipt books of 150 or 200 years ago. But whatever parallels can be found, or excuses made, for these practices, in estimating the causes of the high death rate in the camps, we are bound to to take them into account. A large number of deaths in the concentration camps have been directly and obviously caused by the noxious compounds given by Boer women to their children.

That this view is correct is substantiated by the fact that the children of English parents living in camp, who are, generally speaking, kept clean and are not subjected to the horrors of Boer domestic medicine, have indeed caught measles, but have been nursed successfully through them by intelligent and careful parents.

Para. 34.—3. *Causes within the control of the Administrations.*—The camps were first of all planted in their present positions by the military authorities and were taken over by the civil government of the Transvaal and the Orange River Colony on March 1st, 1901, and of Natal on November 1st, 1901. There can be little doubt that in the first instance the military did not take sufficiently into account the difference necessary between the treatment of women and children and that of soldiers. For instance, we believe it is reckoned that sufficient tent accommodation is given to an army in the field if one bell tent is allowed to 16 men. Experience has proved that more than three times this amount of accommodation is necessary in a concentration camp, and that anything over five in a bell tent means overcrowding. Soldiers in war-time are constantly moving from place to place. A concentration camp when once planted down on a particular site will probably remain there for months or even years; it requires very serious effort and long preparation to strike camp and move to another site. We cannot feel that sufficient care has been exercised to choose only such sites on which a good and plentiful water supply and other vital requirements could be secured. In some camps both water supply and sanitation are admirable; among them we may mention Kimberley, Orange River, Norval's Pont, Johannesburg, Barberton and Krugersdorp. But in others either water supply, or sanitation, and in some both of these, are distinctly bad; we would single out

as among the worst examples, as we saw them on our first visit, Mafeking, Aliwal North, Middelburg, Belfast, Kroonstad and Standerton, while for an ill-chosen site Merebank has an unenviable priority. In some of the camps just mentioned the bad water, as at Kroonstad, was the same as that supplied to the neighbouring town; but the fact that a town has the misfortune of a bad water supply does not seem to us a reason for subjecting a camp to the same sanitary danger. Supposing it to have been imperative to have fixed a camp on a site with a very inferior water supply, we think that the attendant dangers might have been foreseen and should have been guarded against by an immediate provision of apparatus for boiling all drinking water, and of filters to filter it. In some camps we found extremely impure water being used even in the dispensary, unboiled and unfiltered.

Para. 38.—The special difficulties associated with sanitation in the Boer camps have been already referred to; but we feel that in some camps there has been a tendency on the part of the officials to sink to a low standard of order, decency, and cleanliness in these matters, rather than to face the constant wear and tear involved in insisting on a high standard. What may have been sufficient as regards sanitation, disposal of refuse, provision of bath-houses, &c. of the camps were regarded as a temporary expedient, destined only to last a few weeks, becomes an obvious source of danger to health if the camps are to last months or years. We advise that the general inspectors of camps should bestow constant labour in raising the standard in those camps which require it to the higher level successfully attained in the best camps. A few words should be added here on the subject of the supply of transport animals for the camps. No superintendent, however zealous, can keep his camp clean and healthy unless he can secure the constant use of a sufficient supply of transport animals for sanitary work, the carting away of refuse, and, where necessary, the bringing in of water.

It has been pointed out that over large districts of South Africa it has long been quite impossible to obtain fresh vegetables or fresh milk. Recently the supply of meat, in more limited areas, has given out. It ought to have been foreseen that a dietary without fresh milk, vegetables, or meat would be followed by a lowering of vitality, and that scurvy would almost certainly result, and earlier precautions ought to have been taken to prevent it. A more determined effort might, we believe, have been made to secure fresh meat, however thin; and lime juice, jam, and vegetables of some kind added to the dietary would have been a reasonable precaution to have taken in view of an obvious danger. Again, when once the formidable character of the measles epidemic, followed as it was by pneumonia and kindred diseases, had made itself evident, more strenuous and earlier exertions ought to have been made to secure the services of an adequate supply of efficient doctors and nurses to cope with the outbreak. It would have been well if the Concentration Camps Department in each colony had, from the very beginning of serious illness in the camps, set about the formation of a reserve of doctors and nurses, so as to throw quickly into any camp, which required it, extra help to enable the existing staff successfully to combat the disease. In some camps—Barberton should be particularly mentioned in this connection—a most praiseworthy effort was made from the beginning to isolate measles. Special marquees and a buck-sail shelter were erected, and Colonel Robinson, P.M.O., was successful in bringing into hospital 357 cases of measles out of a total throughout the camp of about 500. He kept the children in hospital for 16 days after the rash had first appeared, and the proportion of deaths to cases was very favourable compared to that in most other camps. Belfast, Harrismith, and, to a certain extent Balmoral, followed the same course; but we believe more might have been done in this direction if the Departments had had a staff of doctors and nurses in reserve ready to send to each camp as the epidemic made its appearance, to help the regular staff to combat the disease. These should have been sent for from England earlier than was actually the case.

Para. 36.—We desire to acknowledge, in the fullest possible manner, the generous spirit in which the Concentration Camps Departments have received our suggestions and recommendations. They have had a most difficult and thankless task in providing for the thousands of human beings for whose

well-being they were suddenly made responsible. It is comparatively easy for those who come in as we do, in the attitude of critics, after others have borne the heat and burden of the day, to say that in this or that the work would have been better done otherwise. No one can have been brought in contact as we have repeatedly been, with the heads of the Concentration Camps Departments in the Colonies, without recognising their sincere desire to spare no effort to do for the camps the best thing possible under the circumstances. We have found on the part of the Deputy Administrator and the Military Governor of Pretoria the greatest readiness to accede to any suggestions we might make, and we have been especially gratified to find that they grudged nothing either in the way of labour or money which was calculated to improve the health of the camps. The chief difficulty, where difficulty existed, lay in procuring the necessary railway truckage for the conveyance of extra appliances for the camps. This difficulty, we are glad to learn, is diminishing day by day.

Para. 37.—Before the conclusion of our work we had the opportunity of submitting several of our recommendations to His Excellency the High Commissioner, and also of placing before him details of what we had seen and heard in the various camps. In conversing with him it was impossible not to feel that we were in the presence, not of a partisan anxious only to hear what told in favour of a particular point of view, but of a statesman desirous to hear the truth, whether pleasant or unpleasant, in order that he might the more effectually grapple with the difficulties of the situation with all its vastly important bearings on the future.

Para. 38.—*The Question of the Removal of the Camps to other Localities.*—It remains now to take into consideration the third and last branch of our inquiry, *i.e.* whether it be desirable to remove the camps from their present positions. We are of the opinion that there are certain camps, such as Mafeking, Vredefort Road, Standerton, and Kroonstad, which for various reasons it would be desirable to move.* Mafeking has recently had a serious outbreak of enteric, and the ground on which the camp is pitched, although great care has been taken to disinfect it, is probably poisoned. Vredefort Road is 2½ miles from its water source, and the supply of animals for transport is far from ample. Kroonstad has an extremely bad water supply and if it could be moved to pure water it could not but be a great advantage to the whole camp. The Standerton water supply is even worse than that of Kroonstad. Besides this removal of individual camps for special reasons, there are overgrown camps reaching to a population of from 4,000 to 6,000 which we desire to see reduced. We believe that a camp always suffers materially when its numbers exceed, at the outside, 3,000. That number is quite sufficient for one superintendent to be responsible for. The whole camp is easier worked and a more friendly and sociable spirit prevails if numbers are kept within certain limits. Therefore, if new and good sites and suitable superintendents can be found, we should welcome the reduction in numbers of such camps as Bloemfontein, Middelburg, Potchefstrom, Aliwal North, Bethulie, Irene, Krugersdorp and Volksrust, and the formation from their overflow of new camps elsewhere. Moreover, if it should become an absolute impossibility to supply the camps in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal with fresh meat, it will, in our judgment, be absolutely necessary to move their inmates nearer the coast where an ample supply of cold storage or other fresh meat will be available. If the meat cannot be brought to the people, the people must be brought to the meat. But with the before-mentioned exceptions, we cannot think it either necessary or desirable to urge a wholesale removal of the camps either to Natal or to the eastern part of Cape Colony. At present we have but little experience of how the natives of the Orange River Colony and Transvaal accustomed to live from 4,000 to 6,000 feet above the level of the sea, will stand the almost tropical heat of

* Nylstroom ought, we fear, to be added to this list. It is a good camp, but it is in a malarial district, and although the dwellers in the camp who belong to the locality may have become inured and fever proof, the staff are not similarly protected, and it will probably be impossible to maintain this camp where it now is.

some parts of Natal. The actual physical difficulties and risks of moving such an immense body of people, composed, as they are, in unusually large proportions, of the very old and the very young, would be great. They would be in many cases several days on the railway. The weather is as uncertain as it is in England and the changes of temperature much more sudden and severe. An attempt to move the camps *en masse* would probably be attended by many casualties. On these considerations we recommend the improvement of conditions in existing camps, and the breaking of them up into smaller units, rather than their removal in any wholesale manner.

Para. 39.—We have observed that in some quarters suggestions have been made for (*a*) the simple disbanding of the camps, and (*b*) for the boarding out of the women and children now in camps with loyalist families in Natal or Cape Colony. We venture to think no one could make either of these suggestions who knows the conditions of South Africa. The great area of the Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, and parts of Cape Colony are stripped bare of all means of supporting life. The single line of rails from Cape Town to the Vaal River is taxed to its utmost to bring up food stuffs for the consumption of the Orange River Colony. The Transvaal is more fortunate in having other railway communication with the coast, but all its food, too, has to be brought up either from Cape Town, Durban, or Delagoa Bay. To turn the 100,000 people now being fed in the concentration camps out on the veldt to take care of themselves would be cruelty; it would be turning them out to starvation. Even if peace were declared to-morrow, Great Britain must continue to supply the camp people with the necessaries of life for some months to come. If once they were scattered over the country, what is now sufficiently difficult would become impossible.

The suggestion for the boarding out, with loyalist families in healthy situations in Natal or Cape Colony, nearly 100,000 Boer women and children whose husbands and fathers either have recently fought or are still fighting against us, shows that those who make it have never been at the pains to realize what war means. Could 100,000 French women and children have been boarded out, successfully, with the average German hausfrau while the war of 1870–71 was still going on? Or could Turks have been boarded out with Russians during the war of 1878? Even in the camps it is frequently necessary to place physical obstacles in the way of personal conflict between the families of those Boers who have surrendered and those still in the field. To board out the women folk of one of the combatants with the women folk of the other would be to re-enact in thousands of families the fights which have been already fought, and would surely intensify the race hatred which all well-wishers of South Africa should desire to allay.

Para 40.—In conclusion, we believe we may say that the appointment of this Commission has already been attended by the following definite results:—

1. The appointment of travelling inspectors of camps in the Orange River Colony and Transvaal.
2. The revision of the ration scale, including fuel.
3. The provision of boilers for drinking water, and other sanitary precautions against the spread of enteric.
4. An increase in the supply of qualified doctors and nurses.
5. The more general appointment of suitable women as camp matrons.
6. The appointment of water engineers to visit camp, and advise about water supply.
7. The larger provision of kartels, or bedsteads, so as to reduce to a minimum the number of people sleeping on the ground.
8. The more general provision of soup kitchens.

9. The reorganisation of four camps, and the dismissal of incompetent officials.
10. The increase of hospital accommodation and staff in a large number of camps.

(Signed) MILLICENT GARRETT FAWCETT, President.
„ KATHERINE B. BRERETON.
„ LUCY A. E. DEANE, Hon. Sec.
„ ALICE KNOX.
„ ELLA CAMPBELL SCARLETT, M.D., L.S.A., L.M.
„ JANE E. WATERSTON, M.D.

Durban, December 12th 1901.

APPENDICES TO REPORT OF CONCENTRATION CAMPS COMMISSION.

APPENDIX A.

SUGGESTIONS REGARDING HOSPITAL AND CAMP MATRONS.

(Compiled partly from Circular 87, Burgher Camps Department, Pretoria, and partly from the Concentration Camps Commission's paper on the same subject.)

Hospital Matron.

1. There shall be a hospital matron in each camp who shall be a trained and certificated nurse of large experience, and have the qualification of being a good manager.

2. She shall be entitled to a salary of 12*l.* per month and an allowance of 17*s.* per month for uniform, free rations and quarters.

3. Her duties shall be to have charge of the hospital, the control of the hospital nurses, probationers, and servants, and generally to manage the hospital under the direction of the medical officers, subject to the control of the superintendent of the camp.

4. Her staff shall consist of as many fully-trained and partly-trained nurses, probationers, and servants as may be required.

5. Fully-trained nurses shall receive a salary of 10*l.* per month, 17*s.* per month for uniform, free rations and quarters.

6. Uncertificated nurses shall receive 7*l.* 10*s.* per month, uniform allowance 17*s.* per month, free rations and quarters.

7. Probationers shall receive 4*l.* per month, free rations and quarters with uniform supplied, to be made by themselves.

8. Probationers taken from among the refugees shall be paid from 1*s.* 6*d.* to 2*s.* 6*d.* per day with uniform supplied, to be made by themselves; the uniform to remain the property of the Hospital. Rations the same as that of other nurses, in lieu of refugee rations.

Camp Matron.

9. There shall be a camp matron in each camp, who shall be a trained and certificated nurse of large experience. She shall see that no cases of sickness, destitution, or special poverty remain unnoticed in the tents, and she shall work under the direction of the medical officer subject to the control of the superintendent of the camp.

10. The scale of pay and allowances for the camp matron and her staff shall be the same as for the hospital matron's department.

11. She shall divide the camp into districts; and in camps of over 1,000 inhabitants and under 2,000, she shall have under her one trained nurse.

12. In camps of over 2,000 inhabitants, she shall have an assistant camp matron and one trained nurse for every 1,500 inhabitants over and above 2,000.

13. The duties of the camp matron shall be to teach mothers the care of children, to inculcate by all means in her power, habits of personal cleanliness and order, the airing of tents, scrupulous cleanliness in the preparation of infants' food and milk and all matters pertaining to hygiene. She shall be directly responsible for the carrying out of the doctors' orders in all cases of sickness among infants and others nursed in the tents. She shall have control of the camp nurses and probationers, and shall train the latter carefully to assist her in such duties as washing, poulticing, taking temperatures, seeing that medicines and medical comforts are properly administered, &c.

14. The camp matron shall select the probationers from among the refugees. There should not be less than two probationers in course of training in each district; whilst, f there is an epidemic of measles, enteric, or other disease in the camp, there should not be less than four.

15. Each probationer shall be responsible for not more than 60 or 70 tents; she must report daily either to the matron or nurse in whose district they are placed on the order and welfare of the occupants.

16. The probationer shall visit each tent in her section every morning with a note book, and shall make a list of all cases of sickness, giving the number of the tent and the name of the patient. The list shall be handed to the matron or nurse of the particular district by 8.30 a.m., and by her shall be passed to the doctor.

17. The camp matron, or the assistant camp matron, or the nurse of the particular district shall accompany the doctor on his rounds, each probationer in her own section directing them from tent to tent according to the list supplied to the doctor. The probationer should not necessarily enter the tent with the doctor and matron.

18. The probationer when the doctor leaves her section shall take his prescriptions to the dispenser to make up. She shall also make a list of the medical comforts ordered by the doctor for the patients in her section.

19. After going round with the doctor, the matron or nurse of the district shall make out a list of the more important cases, whom she will herself visit in the course of the day, apportioning the others to the probationers to see and report on to her before 6 p.m. When the patients are ordered to hospital she shall report to the Superintendent who will arrange for the removal of the patient. The camp matron shall make it one of her special duties to see that the children whose mothers are in hospital are thoroughly cared for.

20. The camp matron shall make out a list daily of the medical comforts ordered by the doctor, and shall see that they are duly distributed.

21. If the camp matron or one of her subordinates should observe in any tent a case where clothing is needed, she shall report the matter to the superintendent who will refer it to the relief matron for investigation and attention.

22. It is advisable especially during an epidemic that there should be a soup kitchen, and this shall be under the management of the camp matron who may employ any voluntary assistance; the soup shall be issued daily by the matron or her assistants to those entitled to receive it.

23. The camp matron shall have the power to engage or dismiss the probationers belonging to her staff, notifying the superintendent in every case.

24. If the assistant matron or any of the nurses under her should, in the opinion of the camp matron, be inefficient or unsuited for the posts they hold, she should report to the Superintendent, who shall take such steps as may be necessary to discharge such nurses or remove them to other employment, and engage others.

25. Probationers should have a simple uniform which should remain the property of the camp matron's department.

26. The camp matron should organize a mess for the nurses of her department.

27. The Superintendent will see that proper accommodation is provided for the camp matron and her staff as well as for the hospital matron. A cook and servant should be employed to the mess and the quarters of the various matrons' staffs.

28. The camp matron should not prescribe medicines, but she should have in her store for cases of emergency such items as the following:—

1 bottle castor oil.	6 tins Ideal milk.
1 „ olive oil.	1 lb. arrowroot.
1 „ vaseline.	1 „ tea.
1 „ boracic acid.	4 oz. brandy.

APPENDIX B.

PROPOSED SCALE OF RATIONS.

Adults.

	Per week.
*Bread, Boer meal or flour	7 lbs.
Meat	5 lbs.
Potatoes, carrots, onions or equivalents	3½ lbs.
†Alternative { Samp	1 lb.
†Alternative { or Rice or Beans	½ lb.
Coffee	7 oz.
Sugar	14 oz.
Salt	7 oz.
Milk	1 tin.
Wood	21 lbs.
Soap	½ lb.

* When meat is thin, 1lb. dripping or lard should be substituted for an equal quantity of mea
† The items here mentioned should be varied as much as possible.

Children 3 to 12 years old.

	Per week.
Bread, Boer meal or flour	3½ lbs
*Meat	3 lbs.
Potatoes, carrots, onions or equivalents	3½ lbs.
Alternative { Samp	1 lb.
Alternative { or Rice or Beans	½ lb.
Coffee	7 oz.
Sugar	14 oz.
Salt	7 oz.
Milk	2 tins.
Wood	21 lbs.
Syrup or jam	½ lb.
Mealy meal	2 lbs.
Soap	½ lb.

Infants under 3.

Milk	2 bottles daily.
Oatmeal	½ lb. per week.
Syrup	½ „ „ „
Soap	½ „ „ „

The maximum wood ration for a family should be 100 lbs.
Grocery rations should be issued once a week.
Meat, bread, and potatoes daily.
Infants' milk, twice daily, mixed with boiled water.
We would suggest that patients leaving hospital should be placed on a special convalescent diet for such period as the doctor may direct.

APPENDIX C.

THE BLOCK SYSTEM OF ISSUING RATIONS.

A Short Report of the Issue of Rations at Bethules Camp; Population 4,882.

Rations are served from a marquee in the centre of the camp; the plan adopted is as follows:—The camp is divided into blocks, each block is distinguished by a letter and contains 16 tents. When rations are issued the blocks are called up one by one by a "call boy" appointed for the purpose. On reaching the ration tent the people stand outside in single file, according to their numbers.

The head issuer, seated at a table inside the tent, has a book in which is written the number of the tent, the name and number of each family in order, Block A coming first with the names of all the heads of families in each of its 16 tents, then Block B, and so on. As the head issuer calls out the name, the person of that name enters; the issuer then calls out the rations to which the family are entitled, with which the person is immediately served by the assistant issuers; a cross X is put in the book under the date to show that the ration has been issued.

If any name is called, and the person is not present, a note is made, and if absence is due to sickness the rations are sent to the tent by a corporal. The head of each family must fetch the rations, but this is no hardship, where 10 minutes is the average length of time any one person has to wait. When about half the people in Block A have been served, the call boy summons Block B, and so on. The whole plan of issuing was excellent. There was no waste of time and no muddle. Over 2,400 persons were rationed from one tent in about two hours' time.

* When meat is thin, 1lb. dripping or lard should be substituted for an equal quantity of meat.

REPORTS ON NATAL CAMPS.

1. Howick - Page 25 | 2. Pietermaritzburg - Page 30 | 3. Merebank - Page 33

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, HOWICK, 2ND AND 3RD DECEMBER 1901.

This is the first camp we have seen in Natal, and there are some differences which should be noted between it and the camps in the Transvaal and Orange River Colony. In the first place, the ration is different, and better; it is per week :—

	Adults.	Children, 5–12.	Children under 5.
Bread	7 lbs.	3½ lbs.	—
Meat	4 lbs.	3 lbs.	—
Potatoes, or equivalents	3½ lbs.	3½ lbs.	—
Coffee	7 oz.	7 ozs.	—
Sugar	14 ozs.	14 ozs.	—
Oatmeal or mealie meal	—	—	3½ lbs.
Salt	3½ ozs.	3½ ozs.	—
Milk, tinned	—	—	4 tins.
Wood	14 lbs.	14 lbs.	7 lbs.

Candles, one per tent daily. N.B.—In other Natal camps we found one candle given to each tent every two days.
Soap, two bars (each weighing 2 lbs.) per week per family of seven.

Secondly, a definite equipment is issued to each family on its arrival, viz. :—

Blankets	Adults, two each; children, one each.
Waterproof sheets	Three to five per family, as may be required.
I. G. pails	One to two per family, as may be required.
Camp kettles	One to two, according to size of family.
Basins	One to two, according to size of family.
Iron spring bedsteads	300 have been issued in Howick Camp to those most in need of them.

Thirdly, an account is kept of the value of all rations, clothing, and equipment issued to each family, and if their circumstances permit of it they will be required to repay the Government what these have cost.

Fourthly, the schools have not yet been taken over by the Education Department, although they are on the point of being so; consequently they are carried on at present by an unpaid staff of teachers from the camp, who volunteer their services. This accounts for more Dutch being taught than we have found in the Orange River Colony or Transvaal camp schools, and also for the use, as school books, of works such as Rev. J. White's School History of South Africa, which introduces subjects of a highly controversial character.

The Natal camps were taken over by the Civil authorities from the Military on November 1st, 1901. This is the only camp in which we have found the two offices of P.M.O. and Superintendent combined, Dr. Hunter at present filling both. This is also the only camp in which we have found scarlet fever without any attempt at isolation. This subject will be more fully referred to under Clause 11. On December 3rd, 1901, the camp contained 281 men, 1,371 women, and 1,862 children, total 3,514. The camp is divided into two sections, with a deep marshy depression between them.

1. *Water Supply.*—Water is obtained from the same source as that used by the Military Hospital and depôt. A furrow brings the water from the river Umgeni, some distance up the stream; it is then taken across the river in a pipe and, by means of a turbine, lifted 120 feet to fill some very large tanks in the camp. From these it flows by gravitation to stand-pipes, baths and wash-houses. This water is not boiled, except for the hospital, and the question arises how far it can be trusted now that the river is in flood from the recent rains. We feel it would be safer to boil it for drinking purposes throughout the whole camp. The second turbine had just broken down at the date of our visit, so that the water supply was not as abundant as usual and the bath-houses had to be temporarily closed. Another and more powerful turbine was being erected in order to get the water into the new camp. A fall on the river just below the Military Hospital and Boer camp gives the necessary power for the turbines.

At present the upper or "new" camp is not well supplied with water; it has only one stand-pipe, but the supply is augmented by two double-barrelled water carts which are refilled four times a day. Many of the people in this camp draw their water from a spring brought through a pipe in the morass between the two camps; the water is crystal clear, but it should be analysed, as it rises in the swampy hollow between the two camps.

This swamp between the two sections of the camp should be drained, and the soapy water from the wash-houses should certainly not be allowed to run into it, as the smell in hot weather will be very bad and is even now seriously complained of. The muddy ground round the spring is caused by this morass. We are now aware that the present season has been exceptionally rainy; but if the amount of wet is exceptional it should be dealt with by exceptional care in the matter of drainage.

Washing Clothes.—There are three first-class wash-houses in the old camp, with taps, sloping tables, drains to carry off the dirty water, and small platforms to raise the women off the ground. Two very large wash-houses are being put up in the new camp, but these cannot be used till the new turbine is completed. There is, however, a good wash-place in the river, and it is no hardship for the women to wash there in the meantime.

Bath-houses.—There are two excellent bath-houses in the old camp, each containing 8 baths, and one in the new camp, now temporarily closed owing to the non-completion of the new turbine. The bath-houses are capitally fitted up; each bath is in a separate compartment; there are a seat, pegs for clothes and towels, and a wooden grating to stand on. The bath-houses are open from 6 to 11 a.m. It would be well to open them again from 3 to 6 p.m., as many women would prefer their bath after their day's work was done.

2. *Sanitation.*—The pail system, attended to by the same contractor who works for the Military Hospital and depôt. The pails are emptied every night; they are cleansed and disinfected by the camp sanitary staff, which consists of 73 natives, including two indunas or headmen, under the supervision of Mr. Alloway and Mr. Murray. They do their work well. The latrines are well constructed and ventilated.

Disposal of Dust.—Galvanised iron bins are placed all over the camp as receptacles for dust. They are emptied by the same staff twice a day. The whole camp is swept and cleaned by these natives. No occupant of a tent is responsible for anything outside his own tent ropes.

Slop Water.—There are 42 large slop buckets on wheels throughout the camp, which are emptied by the sanitary staff. We saw a great deal of bread thrown away in these.

The final dumping ground for latrines, dust bins, &c. is the same as that used by the military, and is far away from the camp.

3. *Housing.*—The old camp consists almost entirely of marquees, the new camp of bell tents with a few marquees. There are in all 135 marquees and 398 bell tents. The bell tents in the new camp were for the most part very squalid and neglected. We should be inclined to place them with Belfast and Aliwal North as among the worst we have seen for poverty and filth. The marquees, on the other hand, especially in the old camp, are clean, neat, and well furnished.

The rule is not to place more than five in a bell tent or ten in a marquee. Two families often share a marquee; we saw more than one shared by three families. The rule about the lifting of tent flaps is fairly carried out, "weather permitting."

4. *Rations.*—The ration scale for Natal has been already quoted. Bread and fuel are issued daily, meat three times a week, groceries and potatoes once a week. This camp has a great advantage in being able to get quantities of fresh milk from the Mooi River Creamery. 250 quarts are brought in daily; the hospital is first supplied with all it requires, and the rest is distributed, on doctors' orders, to sick or aged people in the tents

COPY OF (NATAL) HOWICK RATION TICKET.

No. 93. MOSTERT (name of family).

Adults.	Over 5.	Under 5.
3	4	0

Bread	5 lbs. a day.	
Meat	3 lbs. 7 oz. ,,	
Potatoes	3½ lbs.	a week (2 lbs. each).
Coffee	3 lbs. 1 oz.	
Sugar	6 lbs. 2 oz.	
Soap	2 bars	
*Tinned Milk	4 tins	

* This was for an old lady of 70.

we saw the meat and bread ration and the milk ration distributed. The meat is Australian meat of first-class quality, with plenty of fat with it. The bread looked exactly the same as what we have been eating ourselves: good white bread made of too fine flour. Bread made of Boer meal, if it were procurable, would be better for the people and, we believe, more popular. There is no sort of order in the distribution of rations, and the consequence is that the people have to wait a very long time before being served. We were told in camp that the time was often as long as two hours. By the adoption of either the "bag" or the "block" system, or a combination of both, this wearisome waste of time could be avoided. It is a genuine grievance to have to wait even for an hour, sometimes in torrents of rain and sometimes in the blazing sun, when by a little organisation the waiting can be reduced almost to nothing.

5. *Kitchens.*—All cooking is done separately. The bread is issued ready baked, therefore the public bake-ovens would be superfluous. If meal were issued in lieu of bread we should strongly urge the putting up of public bake-ovens, the firing of which should be provided by the Administration. The ovens should all be in working order before the change is made.

6. *Fuel* is, as already mentioned, 2 lbs. of wood a day for adults and children alike. This is the same as a soldier's ration, but as soldiers combine and Boer women will not it does not mean the same thing. The Superintendent said the people could go into the adjoining plantation and collect kindling. We saw boys bringing large bundles of it into camp. A camp resident, on the other hand, told a member of the Commission that people were no longer allowed in the plantation to get kindling, and that two boys had been punished the day before for getting it.

7. *Slaughter-places.*—None. All the meat is supplied killed.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—There is a regular allowance of blankets and waterproof sheets to each family, see page 1. A large number of bedsteads have also been issued; some families are, however, still without them, especially in the new camp.

9. *Clothing.*—Five large lots of Government clothing have been distributed. A few presents from private individuals have also been received through the Dutch minister in Pietermaritzburg; they have been distributed by the Superintendent.

10. *Shops.*—There are three in camp, running in competition with one another; prices are low, milk 5*d.* or 6*d.* a tin and so on. The shops are very fairly stocked. In one we saw several eiderdown quilts and a large stock of Dutch medicines. Each storekeeper pays a deposit of 5*l.* on starting a shop and 1*l.* a month afterwards. This money goes to a fund spent for the benefit of the camp people.

11. *Hospital.*—The staff consists of Dr. Hunter, P.M.O. and Superintendent, and Dr. Eastwood, two trained nurses, with one assistant (untrained) from Australia, and 4 probationers from the camp. There is a qualified dispenser. The hospital consists of 6 marquees containing 6 beds each; there were 20 patients on the day of our visit, 10 of whom were enterics. Dr. Hunter takes charge of the old camp; Dr. Eastwood of the hospital and the new camp. The present hospital has only been in existence since November 9th. Before that date a ward in the Military Hospital was made over for the use of the Boer camp. A large wood and iron building, 110 ft. × 20, is in course of erection for hospital purposes. The present hospital marquees were in beautiful order and the Sisters have cleverly commandeered a good many useful things from the Military Hospital, e.g., lockers, feeding cups, trays, &c. The hospital kitchen was satisfactory and the adjoining pantry in beautiful order. The mess tent for the Sisters and probationers (six in all) was very comfortless. It was an ordinary bell tent with nothing in it but one table and two chairs; the floor was unmade. We understand that a suitable marquee has been promised.

There is an out-patient department attended by both doctors. All the hospital water is boiled and filtered and the fresh milk is boiled. The destructor for enteric stools was not being used in the right way on the day of our visit; but we understood from the Superintendent that this was because the Kaffir boy who understands how to manage it was not on duty and the new boy had not received proper instructions. The Superintendent promised that this should be attended to.

It appears to us a very serious matter that 26 cases of scarlet fever (with 5 deaths) should have been left to be nursed in the tents with no attempt at isolation. Dr. Hunter is of opinion that the disease has now burned itself out, but we fear this may prove too sanguine a view. One child died of scarlet fever in its tent on the second day of our visit and a new case was reported the same day. In describing the beginning of the outbreak, Dr. Hunter said that scarlet fever had appeared simultaneously in 8 tents in the old camp, and this led him to believe that it was too late to attempt isolation. We cannot share his opinion, and we believe experience proves the great efficacy of strict isolation of scarlet fever patients and "contacts." Dr. Hunter promises to put up marquees for scarlet fever and measles at once.

It is possible that the fact that 8 cases of scarlet fever were discovered in this camp simultaneously was due to the absence of any really efficient machinery for discovering and reporting case of sickness in their early stages. An effiicient camp matron who, with the aid of a sufficient number of local assistants, can visit all tents daily and detect and report to the doctor every case of sickness in its initial stages would probably have nipped this outbreak of scarlet fever at Howick in the bud. The system of reporting sickness to the medical officers at Howick is as follows:—A list of those sick in tents in the old camp is handed to Dr. Hunter every night by the corporal; the next morning Dr. Hunter goes through the camp, the corporal preceding him and enquiring, "Who wishes to see the doctor?" In the new camp, for which Dr. Eastwood is responsible, there is no system of reporting sickness at all, but the doctor visits daily as many tents as he can.

An unisolated case of cancrum oris was seen, in an ordinary bell tent, in the new camp.

12. *Camp Matron.*—An efficient camp matron, who should be a trained and experienced nurse, is badly wanted in this camp. We urge that this should be attended to immediately.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. van der Horst from Stellenbosch. He is also conducting the school.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Nine policemen, out of the camp, are employed, and are on duty night and day. The camp is fenced and no one is allowed to go into Howick town without a pass, a very necessary precaution during the presence of scarlet fever in camp. There had been no special difficulty about morals. The camp is out of bounds for military camps and *vice versâ*.

15. *Education.*—As previously mentioned, the schools in the Natal camps have not yet been taken over by the Government; the teachers are unpaid. Rev. van der Horst is the headmaster, and he has six assistants out of the camp. Dutch and English are taught on alternate days, English three times and Dutch twice a week. There are 240 children on the roll. Mr. van der Horst could not tell us what the average attendance was. Several marquees had been allotted to the school, and a large building, 110 ft. × 20 ft., is being put up for future school use when the school is made over to the Education Department. This will provide accommodation for 700 children. An English headmaster will then be appointed.

16. *Occupations.*—There are no special occupations which call for remark. A few gardens have been made; it would be a good thing if more could be started. Hides have been promised for shoemaking, but have not yet arrived.

17. *Orphans.*—Relations take them.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died.*—

Month.	1 to 5.	5 to 10.	10 to 25.	Over 25.	Totals.
January	1	—	—	—	1
February	—	—	2	—	2
March	1	—	—	—	1
April	—	—	—	—	—
May	3	—	—	—	3
June	1	—	—	—	1
July	—	—	—	—	—
August	1	—	—	1	2
September	1	—	—	1	2
October	18	6	4	4	32
November	38	5	—	—	43
Grand Totals	64	11	6	6	87

20. *How many Women have applied to leave?*—A good many have done so; their applications are referred to the military authorities, and if these make no objection the application is granted.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes; there are about 50 in the camp, and they must, if required, do a certain amount of work for the good of the camp. They are not rationed.

22. *Provision of Coffins, Shrouds, &c.*—Everything of this kind is provided at the expense of the Government. The cemetery adjoins that used by the military. The graves are properly filled in and carefully kept. The ground is being laid out. The mortuary is in a bell tent between the two sections of the camp and is very well kept.

Recommendations.

(1.) Strict isolation should be at once carried out for all scarlet fever cases and "contacts."

(2.) A sod or brick hut to be used as a disinfecting chamber for mattresses, bedding, &c. should be put up.

(3.) A camp matron is much needed. A trained nurse should be appointed, and she should have a sufficient number of assistants to ensure the due

reporting to the doctor of cases of sickness, and the proper carrying out of the doctor's orders for those who are nursed in their tents.

(4.) Cases of cancrum oris should be isolated.

(5.) A marquee should be provided and furnished for a mess tent for nurses and probationers.

(6.) More equipment, bronchitis kettles, &c., are required for the hospital.

(7.) The system of issuing the rations should be improved, either by the adoption of the "block" system or the "bag" system, or by a combination of both.

(8.) The swamp between the two sections of the camps should be drained.

(9.) Space out the people living in their own tents in the top row of the new camp. They are too close together. Do not allow this camp to increase beyond its present numbers.

REPORT ON CONCENTRATION CAMP AT PIETERMARITZBURG, NATAL, 6TH AND 7TH DECEMBER 1901.

This camp is about a mile out of the town, in a good situation on sloping ground. It adjoins the botanical gardens, of which the camp people have the free run. The camp has been in existence more than a year, having been formed in August 1900. The Superintendent, Mr. Struben, has been in charge since December 1900. On the date of our visit the camp contained 2,364 people, viz., 262 men, 733 women, and 1,369 children.

This camp on the whole has been extremely healthy, but it has not escaped the prevailing epidemic of measles, by which it was visited in August and September 1901. In these months the total number of deaths from all causes was 25 and 46 respectively. It is satisfactory, however, to note that in the two following months the camp returned to its normal death rate; there were only nine deaths in October and four in November.

1. *The Water Supply* is the same as that of the town. It is brought from the town reservoir by iron pipes into the lower part of the camp, where it fills in Camp No. 1 eleven large galvanised iron tanks, and in Camp No. 2 six tanks; two of these are self-filling, the other four are filled by water carts, which are working all day long.

Washing Clothes.—There are six capital wash-houses, each capable of accommodating 32 women. There are two stand-pipes in each, and a plentiful supply of water. These wash-houses are surrounded by excellent drying grounds, and galvanised iron wires have also been put up for use as clothes lines. Many women were using the Government waterproof sheets as washing aprons.

Bath-houses.—These are also excellent. There are two bath-houses, and each contains four baths for men and eight for women. Each bath is in a separate bath-room; one was fitted with a shower bath. The hours during which the bath-houses are open are from 6 to 9 in the morning and from 3 to 6 in the afternoon. That they are appreciated is proved by the fact that it has been necessary to limit the time any person may occupy a bath-room to twenty minutes.

2. *Sanitation.*—The pail system has been adopted. The pails are emptied every night by a contractor. The Superintendent employs a gang of native boys, who wash the latrines and disinfect the pails with chloride of lime or carbolic. The same gang sweep down daily the corrugated-iron lined drains throughout the camp and clear up litter, no head of a family being responsible for the tidiness of the ground beyond his own tent ropes.

Removal of Dry Rubbish.—There are seventeen "authorised" dust bins, which are surrounded on three sides by corrugated iron walls. These are emptied daily by the same contractor who attends to the latrines. Besides these, there are small receptacles for dust, &c. placed about the camp,

Wet refuse is put into slop tanks on wheels, of which there are 46 in Camp No. 1 and 48 in Camp No. 2. These are wheeled away daily by the scavenging gang of native boys and emptied into four large slop carts, emptied by the contractor. The general condition of the latrines, especially those for women and children, was dirty. The ground inside the latrines had been fouled.

3. *Housing.*—More than half the people in this camp are living in frame houses, neatly built in terraces. There are about 1,300 people living in these houses and only about 1,000 in tents. The rule is not to have more than five in a bell tent and not more than ten in a frame house or marquee. The frame houses consist of two rooms each or of one room 15 ft. by 18 ft. Those of which we saw the interior were neat and comfortable. Many of the occupants had put up an awning outside, so as to form a sort of stoep. The camp is well trenched and is on a good slope, and even after very heavy rain the soil dries very quickly.

There has been a good deal of trouble in this camp in getting the rule respecting ventilation observed.

4. *The Rations* are upon the usual Natal scale. We saw meat, bread, and potatoes being issued. The meat was excellent—Australian cold storage beef. The bread was similar to that issued at Howick, made of fine white flour. The potatoes were not good, and Sir Thomas Murray, who was present, ordered that they should be sent back to the contractor. It was explained that the present is the worst time of the year for potatoes (December in South Africa answers to an English May). The new crop was not yet in the market, and the old crop was all but exhausted.

There is no method whatever in the issue of rations, and the people wait about outside the ration store for a very long time. Natal is behind the other colonies in this respect.

5. *Kitchens.*—There are no public ovens, but in some cases two or three families have combined to build themselves an oven which the women use by turns.

6. *Fuel.*—Nothing but wood, 14 lbs. a head a week, was issued. The Superintendent was of opinion that on this scale small families came off badly. There had been complaints of people stealing wood from each other, and from off the pile. They were able to get a good deal of small wood for kindling, and presents of wood for the camp were sometimes sent in from Greytown. But there is no doubt that an increase in the wood ration would be very welcome.

7. *Slaughter-places.*—None.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—There were very few in this camp without bedsteads. Some had been made in camp. There had been a very large issue of blankets by the Government, and a liberal supply of waterproof sheets. Floor-cloths for the tents had also been provided.

9. *Clothing.*—The Superintendent estimated that the Government had spent 3*l.* per head for every individual in the camp. He handed us, at our request, specimens of the orders he gave for clothing. The following is a copy of two of these. He was assisted in the matter of clothing by the advice of two English ladies, resident in Pietermaritzburg, who had had much experience in dealing with the relief of the loyal refugees.

Mrs. F. Mulder (Husband, T. J.).
Four children, 14, 9, 7, 3.

2 pr. ladies' shoes, sizes 5 and 6.	3 pr. ladies' hose.
14 yds. black dress material.	12 yds. lining.
18 „ print.	12 „ calico.
10 „ flannelette.	4 reels cotton.
8 „ tweed.	8 yds. shirting.
4 pr. boys' hose.	2 pr. boys' boots, 11, 11.

Mrs. L. Richter (Husband, D. F. de V.).
Seven children, 16, 14, 12, 10, 7, 4, 2.

21 yds. dress material.	20 yds. print.
24 „ calico.	24 „ flannelette.
21 „ lining.	16 „ turkey red.
3 pr. ladies' shoes, 4, 4, 4.	2 pr. girls' boots.
1 „ babies' shoes, 5.	6 „ ladies' hose.
6 „ girls' hose.	4 „ children's socks.

In all Natal camps the value of rations, clothing, &c. issued by the Government is debited to the families who receive them.

10. *Shops.*—There are three in this camp. Their price list has to be submitted to the Chief Superintendent of Camps. The storekeepers pay a deposit of 5*l.* and a monthly license of 1*l.* This money is used for the benefit of the camp people for such things as the purchase of lawn tennis or croquet sets, or for the relief of special cases of destitution.

11 & 12. *Hospital and Camp Matron.*—There is no hospital, but a wood and iron building is to be erected just above the camp. Up to the present patients have been sent to a detached ward specially reserved for their use in the Military Hospital at Fort Napier. When we visited this ward we found only six patients in bed. Five were suffering from enteric and one from pneumonia; there were one or two convalescents sitting in the verandah.

There is very little sickness in this camp, and in the month of November there were only four deaths. The medical and nursing staff for the camp consists of one doctor, two nurses, and one dispenser. Anyone who wishes to see the doctor sends a message to the dispensary in the morning, and his name is entered upon a list. If the patient is well enough to walk he is expected to attend as an out-patient at the dispensary at 9 a.m. After seeing the out-patients the doctor, accompanied by the camp matron, goes to the tents and frame houses and sees everyone who has asked for a visit. The average number of out-patients is about twenty a day. The number visited in their tents or houses was, on December 6th, about a dozen, and of these only one was seriously ill.

Nurse Wolhuter, who does the camp nursing and goes round with the doctor, enters thoroughly into her work and keeps a steady watch over the sick in camp. She has one assistant, a Dutch girl; her English assistant is at present ill. The doctor, dispenser, and nurse all live in frame houses in camp. They receive field force rations

Hospital comforts, including stimulants, are given out only on doctor's orders; but the nurse and dispenser are allowed to give out milk and maizena to convalescents who require careful feeding. The hospital comforts are issued from the dispensary, which appeared in most respects to be well managed. There are, however, two matters which are unsatisfactory :—

(1.) The medicines, with the exception of poisons, are issued in bottles bearing no labels.

(2.) The dispensary and the stables are under one roof and virtually form part of the same building.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—The Rev. M. Murray. We saw this gentleman in the school, in which he takes a great interest.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—The only disciplinary measure to which Mr. Struben has ever resorted has been to stop the ration of coffee for a day or two. As regards morals, he said that he knew there were five or six women in camp who were "a bad lot." The camp was out of bounds for the military camp, but the people were free to go into town as much as they pleased up to 6 p.m. After that hour they required a pass, which Mr. Struben not infrequently granted if there was anyone wanting to go to the theatre or to a party.

15. *The School* has not yet been taken over by the Education Department.* The teachers are voluntary and unpaid. Mr. Vermaak is the headmaster and he has several assistants; there are between 250 and 300 scholars, and instruction is given both in English and in Dutch. The Sunday school under the Rev. Murray has an attendance of 657 children. The schoolroom, which is also used as a church, is very large; it has a harmonium in it and is fairly comfortable.

16. *Occupations.*—There is a blacksmith's forge in camp. A few people have small gardens round their dwellings, but there are no other occupations which call for remark. About 20 girls get employment in the town; one of these is a "companion." A large proportion of the men living in camp are employed in Pietermaritzburg; some by the railway, some on steam trollies, some in breweries. Their wages average from 3*s.* to 8*s.* a day, but we heard of a few earning as much as 15*s.* a day. Their competition in the labour market is, not unnaturally, resented by working people in Pietermaritzburg,

and in deference to the feeling excited the men from the camp who were earning wages in town were struck off the free ration list. Mr. Struben stated employers in town said the men worked well and were well worth their wages.

17. *The Care of Orphans.*—Their relatives take care of them. There is a Mrs. Oesthuizen in camp looking after some twins whose mother had died in Middelburg camp. The father of these children, who was a prisoner in Ceylon, has been allowed to return, and is now in Pietermaritzburg camp with his children.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died.*—

Month.	Under 1.	1–5.	5–12.	12–20.	Over 20.	Totals.
May	—	3	1	—	2	6
June	2	2	—	1	1	6
July	1	2	2	—	1	6
August	7	12	4	1	1	25
September	6	25	9	2	5	47
October	3	4	1	—	1	9
November	3	1	—	—	—	4
Totals	22	49	17	4	11	103

20. *Women applying to leave Camp Life.*—A good many have applied, and leave has been granted to those whose husbands were not on commando.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, but they are not rationed. There is no location for them; they sleep in the tents or houses of their employers.

22. *Provision of Coffins, Shrouds, &c.*—Everything is provided free of cost; 4*l.* 10*s.* is paid for each adult's funeral. Burials take place in the town cemetery.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) Instruct the dispenser to label all medicines sent out.

(2.) When the new hospital is built, provide a room to be used as a dispensary, so that the juxta-position of the stable and the dispensary shall be discontinued.

(3.) Keep the excellent bath-houses open all day long, and put them in charge of a caretaker.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, MEREBANK, 6TH AND 7TH DECEMBER 1901.

This camp was started on September 13th on the arrival of 24 refugees from Pretoria; it has therefore been in existence for three months. During this time the numbers have been increased with excessive rapidity by constant large drafts from other camps, until at the date of the Commission's visit the population reached 5,154, *i.e.* 534 men, 2,145 women, 2,475 children. Two days after the formation of the camp a batch of 500 poople arrived from Standerton with measles fully developed on some of them, with the result that the camp was infected from the very beginning; almost immediately afterwards there were 21 days steady rain which caused much difficulty and discomfort.

The camp is divided into four sections, well separated from each other these are further subdivided into blocks.

It lies at the foot of a low hill, the water from which drains into it. The flat, swampy ground on which the camp is pitched slopes slightly from both sides towards a central drain or little stream, into which all surface water from wash-houses, &c. runs, and which flows slowly into a large mere from which there is no outlet. On that side of the camp which is towards Durban there appears to be a big morass which drains towards the camp.

The newly built mortuary in the centre of the four sections is approached through boggy ground, and in making graves in the cemetery (which is situated to near the camp because the spot selected appeared to be dry) it is impossible to dig more than 4½ feet without reaching water. The Commission saw water being baled out of a child's grave before the funeral arrived.

The Commission are aware that the season is unusually wet, but the fact of a rainy season should always be taken into account when fixing the site for a camp, and ground which is water-logged should not have been chosen.

Staff.—Mr. Bousfield, the Superintendant, is assisted by a headman from each block, and a staff of clerks, all refugees.

1. *Water Supply.*—This is the same as that for Durban. It is very good and plentiful and is distributed by means of numerous stand-pipes.

Wash-houses.—There are twenty-seven of these well built of corrugated iron, but two of those in Camp No. 1 were in a dirty condition. We found the people had been misusing some of them by washing their dishes as well as their clothes in them. The open drains from some of these places are supposed to be regularly brushed out, but many of them were dirty and the foul water was standing in them. The fall being very slight, a windy day causes these drains to be blocked by sand.

Bath-houses.—There is only one completed bath-house. It is made of corrugated iron and contains 10 baths for women, 2 for men, and 2 for boys. They are well arranged and are thoroughly appreciated. The Commission found a little crowd of women at the door awaiting their turn for a bath, and throughout the camp the expressions used testified to their popularity. More bath-houses are being built.

2. *Sanitation.*—The pail system is adopted. There are 25 latrines in use, made of corrugated iron, with 32 pails and seats in each. They are well arranged and looked after. A contractor undertakes the daily removal and disinfection of the pails; he has a staff under him consisting of an Indian Sirdar, and 25 coolies; there are 2 sanitary carts and 12 horses and 14 oxen for transport. The great fault of the latrines is their proximity to the tents. It cannot be healthy to have such large latrines so close to the dwelling rooms and tents.

Disposal of Rubbish.—This is collected into small three-sided enclosures of corrugated iron, and then carried away daily in 5 rubbish carts to the depositing ground. The enclosures are too shallow and the Commission noticed that the dust and rubbish was often blown out of them.

Slop Water.—There are 128 slop buckets on wheels scattered over the camp, the contents are carted away to the depositing site and there emptied.

The Depositing Site is now too near the camp and is to be moved at once. The contents of the latrine pails are buried in trenches, but there seemed much water in these pits and the Commission fear that a dangerous element is added to the water draining into the camp. The danger of this place lies in the nearness of the ground-water to the surface and the soakage into the surrounding soil.

Everything from the hospital is carefully buried in a different and drier spot.

3. *Housing.*—The people are housed in—(1) wood and iron huts divided into rooms 16 × 16 feet; (2) wood and canvas huts (accommodation for 560), 14 × 13 feet; (3) bell tents and marquees.

The huts, consisting of one room each, are built in blocks of six and laid out in streets, which in the opinion of the Commission are much too narrow; they have recommended that if more huts are put up, wide streets shall be made and each block set further apart to give all possible opportunity for ventilation.

The canvas houses and huts are preferred by the people to the tents, but although all the rooms have a through draught between the door and window they are exceedingly hot and not too well ventilated.

Two of the blocks in camp are still composed of tents, pitched far too closely together: the tent ropes touched. It is intended to replace them as soon as possible by huts.

The average number in each room in the iron huts was, we were told, from 6 to 8, but there were several instances in which we found 9. Such crowding would only occur in the poorest slums in England, and in this hot country 6 should be the highest number allowed in rooms which are placed so closely together as these at Merebank; for it must be remembered that the rooms are not separated from each other in the same way as tents are. Another fact which makes the housing in this camp a grave question, is that although the surface of the ground in dry weather is sandy, it is always damp just below, and in rainy weather the water rises in the ground and makes the floors quite wet. Tarpaulins for the floors are being provided, and if these are constantly taken up and dried they will be a great comfort and help to the people.

4. *Rations.*—There are four rationing houses in the camp, under the supervision of a head commissariat man, Mr. Peten, assisted by 6 white men in each rationing house, and 8 natives who work in all the 4 houses. The system of issuing did not seem a good one, a long stream of people waiting outside for their ration. Mr. Peten said the camp was too unsettled to enable him to issue rations properly. He hoped that shortly every family would have a numbered ration-ticket and then he would have them served in order. He seemed an intelligent man. We promised him a description of the "block system" of issuing rations. The ration houses were excellent iron buildings, with large tables and shelves; outside the window, through which the people were served, is a bar which prevents crowding and controls the passing of the people as they come for their rations. The usual Natal scale was being served; the meat (cold storage) excellent; the potatoes were not very good. The Natal ration is more liberal than that issued in the other colonies; but in cases when there are 2 or 3 children under 5 years, who are given milk and meal only, the ration is not enough. Three women came to complain of this whilst we were in the ration house, and the headman said it was the chief grievance. Grocery rations, including wood, soap, milk and potatoes are issued weekly; bread and meat 3 times a week—3½ candles are allowed weekly to every tent or room. An account is kept against every family for all rations, clothing, &c. which are issued to them, with a view to recovering the value when the war is over.

5. *Kitchen.*—There are no public ovens; bread is baked by contract outside the camp, and we noticed that, in common with the other camps in Natal, no material had been given to the people to make themselves cook-houses.

6. *Fuel.*—A wood ration of 2 lbs. per head daily is issued, and this supply can be supplemented by wood collected in the neighbourhood, for which purpose a "pass" can be obtained. Sir Thomas Murray thought the ration insufficient and proposed to increase it, with which proposal we entirely agreed.

7. There are no slaughter-places. Cold storage meat is used.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—A good many have brought beds with them, but the Commission saw families who had been at Merebank two months and who had no kartels and no floor covering. When the work of building is finished men are to be employed in making kartels. The material will be supplied and the people will only pay for the labour of making them.

The Commission feel very strongly that in this camp no one at all should sleep on the ground.

Blankets and waterproof sheets are given out on application. The supply of the latter has run short, but five or six hundred are expected shortly.

9. *Clothing.*—Some of the people looked very poor and badly off, but more as regarded furniture than personal clothing. No material has been given out in the camp. The Superintendent a few days before our visit arranged with some of the best women in the camp to investigate cases of destitution and bring lists to him of what they thought was necessary. The lists are being summarised, and when this is finished Mr. Bousfield will make out the indent for material to Government.

10. *Shops.*—There are 6 shops, all in completion. Each pays a guarantee of 5*l.* and 1*l.* per month license. The shops were extremely well supplied a

large variety of goods, such as iron bedsteads, &c. were displayed, and in answer to enquiries the shopkeeper said that tinned fish, and meat, and the usual food stuff were in good demand, and that they were allowed to sell anything except intoxicating drinks. The people are allowed passes to go to Durban, and in order to compete with the town the prices are low.

11. *Hospital.*—There are three doctors, one hospital matron who arrived the day before our visit, four trained nurses, one dispenser and an assistant, also just arrived, and seven local assistants.

The hospital consists of two wood and iron buildings holding 35 beds, another is in course of erection, but the beds were only just being requisitioned for it.

The hospital accommodation is far too small for the size of the camp and the amount of sickness which is prevalent.

The doctors divide the work equally between them, each taking one-third of the camp and treating his own cases in hospital.

The hospital is very well managed and the doctors and nurses are working hard. Temperature charts and diet sheets are over every bed and the patients are well looked after.

Thirteen cases of enteric were in hospital, and there are other suspected cases in the camp which have been kept in the tents for want of accommodation.

There is no destructor for enteric stools, which are removed twice in 24 hours and buried in a special place; the infected linen is not boiled, but is soaked in a solution of 1 in 500 perchloride of mercury, and subsequently washed in a special wash-house.

There has been one case of cancrum oris which ended fatally, and there are some cases of scurvy in the camp.

A maternity ward is to be fitted up, but at present these rooms are being occupied as sleeping apartments by the nurses. The matron is a certificated midwife.

The dispensary is a good building, generally well stored with drugs.

Medical comforts are given out by doctors' orders only and are in charge of the storekeeper. The Commission feel there should be no stint in the issue of these in the lines where many sick people and weakly children are in need of them. There is no fresh milk at all in the hospital; this is a matter which it ought to be possible to remedy at once in a place so close to Durban.

The hospital equipment is very short, especially in regard to sheets and nightdresses. There is a great deal of sickness in camp, and no proper system exists for reporting cases of illness; those who are desirous of seeing the doctors must watch for and catch them while on their daily rounds, and as the tents are not numbered it is often difficult to find a patient again on a second visit. Diarrhœa, influenza, enteric, measles and whooping cough are the prevailing diseases. An epidemic of enteric threatens, and the death-rate will inevitably be higher within the next 2½ months, unless strong measures are taken at once to improve the organisation. The staff and the hospital accommodation also need to be enlarged.

12. *Camp Matrons.*—There are none at present, but we feel so strongly the urgent need for them that we wrote to Sir T. Murray suggesting telegraphing to England for 12 suitable trained women, five of whom could be allotted to Merebank and the rest divided between the other Natal camps. We also promised the Superintendent a copy of "Suggestions for the Camp Matron's work."

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Mr. Enslin, from Vrede. The superintendent spoke of him as doing very good work.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Merebank Camp is in a peculiar position, from the fact that, morally, undesirable people have been sent there from a number of Transvaal camps. The Superintendent informed us that hitherto he had received no information about these people on their arrival; probably this will account for his having had a good deal of trouble with them. He has had to send some men and women to Durban, where they received various sentences.

15. *Education.*—The schools have only just been taken over by the Education Department. Two school shelters have been constructed of wood and iron, with roomy verandahs, and others, some spare buildings originally intended for the South African Constabulary barracks, are to be put up; these will be 112 ft. by 20 ft., and can be used on Sunday for services. There are 2 teachers (Dutch) and 10 assistants, all from the camp, who are grappling energetically with their task; 328 children are on the school roll. On the date of our visit we found the school inspector, Mr. Kemball Cook, busy organising the work, while the sorely-needed equipment was beginning to arrive. The children looked clean and cheerful, and when the new teacher arrives who is to have charge of the school the attendance will doubtless increase largely.

16. *Occupations.*—None at present, except for those who are working in the brickyard and the men who are employed in putting up the huts, &c., in the camp. The Superintendent is going to start carpentering, shoemaking, and a garden as soon as the camp is more settled; also cricket and other games for boys.

17. *Orphans.*—The Superintendent thought there were only about nine orphans in camp; they are cared for by their relatives.

18. *Local Committees.*—None, except the before-mentioned ladies in camp, who advise on the subject of clothing.

19. *Return of Ages of those who have Died.*—

——	Under 1.	1—5.	5—12.	12—20.	Over 20.	Totals.
September - - -	2	1	1	1	1	6
October - - -	11	28	5	2	3	49
November - - -	21	13	4	1	2	41
December—6 - -	5	7	1	2	1	16
Totals - -	39	49	11	6	7	112

20. *Women who have applied to go to Friends.*—The people who are sent to this camp would not be allowed to go to friends.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes. They are not rationed; they do not work for the Superintendent; they sleep in the camp.

22. *Coffins and Shrouds.*—These, we are told by the Superintendent, had always been provided. The mortuary is a good building of wood and iron, with fixed tables, and also well supplied with stretchers. The bodies were decently shrouded and lay in neat coffins.

Recommendations.

1. In spite of the great expense which has been incurred in the erecting of good buildings on the present site, we strongly recommend that the camp should be shifted to a better place. That this will have to be done sooner or later we feel sure, and we consider it is wisest to effect the change before the evil effects of the present site become more serious.

Pending the removal of the camp the following recommendations should be carried out:—

2. No camp should exceed 3,000, and we can see no reason for excepting this camp from the general recommendation already made on this subject.

3. The standard of general cleanliness in the camp be raised.

4. A trained camp matron and assistant are urgently required.

5. Further hospital accommodation, and an increase of the medical and nursing staff by at least two doctors and three nurses, is immediately necessary.

6. All new arrivals should be placed in a segregation camp.

7. There must be no overcrowding in houses which are already too closely placed. There should, on no account, be more than six persons in each room.

8. Fresh milk should be procured for the hospital, and the camp matron on her arrival should undertake the mixing and distribution of the infants' milk ration.

9. Dry ground at a greater distance from the camp should be chosen for a fresh depositing site.

10. The present cemetery should be disused and a better and more distant site chosen.

11. No effort should be spared to provide simple bedsteads or kartels as quickly as possible.

12. A better system of issuing rations should be instituted.

13. Hospital equipment, including dental instruments, &c. are required.

Although recommendations 2 to 13, inclusive, are important, we feel that they are subordinate to the first recommendation, which urges the removal of the camp to another site.

The difficulties of the actual situation at Merebank necessitate, in our opinion, giving Mr. Bousfield a thoroughly able assistant immediately.

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REPORT ON BLOEMFONTEIN CAMP, 16TH TO 19TH SEPTEMBER 1901.

We arrived in this camp during torrents of rain. One half of the camp has recently been moved, what was formerly the "New Camp" is now the "Old Camp." Both camps were well pitched on sloping ground, well trenched. The new camp is particularly well laid out with good space (42 feet) from pole to pole, and with very wide streets (60 yards), making main thoroughfares through the camp. The two camps contain 6,660 people. Mr. Bennett, the Superintendent, has held his post about two months. Mr. Randle, the Assistant Superintendent, about three months. Mr. Bennett was formerly a clerk in Captain Trollope's office. He appears to do office work for the most part in the camp, while Mr. Randle looks after the actual direction of affairs in the camp. Mr. Randle, *e.g.*, superintended the pitching and trenching of the new camp, directs all labour and so on. Neither of them knew anything about the schools and very little about the hospital.

1. *Water Supply.*—In the new camp the water is derived from two wells; one, worked by a hand pump, yields 600 gallons an hour and has never been known to fail. The other generally yields 60 gallons an hour, but was not working at the date of our visit owing to the handle having been broken. A new bore hole for a well is being sunk about 50 yards from the first of the two wells just named, but the machinery had been bent, and the work was, in consequence, stopped. In the brickmaking field between the hospital and the military camp is a horse-pump where the five water-carts are supposed to be filled. These carts are, however, filled with Modder River water from the Artillery Camp.

They are distributed as follows:—

One cart supplies the hospital and wired-in enclosure.
Two carts supply the old camp.
Two carts supply the new camp.

No instructions are given to the people to boil this water.

In the old camp there is a hand pump yielding 300 gallons an hour which is working well. On September 17th another hand pump yielding 600 gallons an hour had been taken over from the military. The water from this pump fills a 600 gallon cistern, from which it is conducted in a 1½-inch pipe to within 400 yards of the camp. The cistern was dirty inside and the pipe leaked a good deal.

Corporals are on duty to protect the wells, and they do their duty efficiently.

The washing arrangements at Bloemfontein camp are extremely bad. Women are seen washing clothes in dirty puddles, using the same water more than once. They were also washing in two small nearly dried-up

streams at the bottom of each camp. Not far from the hospital is a good bath-house with 12 separate baths reserved for the use of men on Tuesdays and Fridays, and for women and children the rest of the week. One of the baths appeared to have been recently used on the day of our visit. Behind the bath-house is a good washing shed in which the hospital washing is done by a camp woman at 10s. per 100. A large trough in two divisions has been erected near this for washing purposes, but the people were not using it, and the taps supplying the troughs were padlocked. There are six 600 gallon cisterns near this trough filled with Modder River water, which is brought in pipes. This water is used for washing when no other water in spruits or puddles is available.

2. *The Latrines* are under the Bloemfontein Municipality. They are on the pail system. There are 430 pails emptied every day to a pit about 4 miles off; they are disinfected with chloride of lime. The latrines, with one exception, were in good order. It is desirable that they should be labelled "For men" and "For women" respectively. Another women's latrine is required. One which was provided has been taken by men. The surface of the ground in camp is clean and in most excellent order.

The Removal of Dust is not well done. Small dust heaps in camp are removed by carts, which deposit their contents much too near the camp. This refuse heap is also a great deal too much spread out. One dust heap near the new camp, only 135 paces from the nearest tents, measures 185 paces × 130. It would be far better to use empty coffee tins as receptacles for dry rubbish and to remove their contents to a greater distance. The dust heap of the old camp is similarly spread out. There is a third, now disused dustheap, much too near the hospital.

3. *Housing.*—Bell tents and marquees. The average number in a tent is five, in a marquee 14. The marquees were, in some instances, divided into three for as many families. Flaps are ordered to be up every day, weather permitting. The trenching and natural slope of the ground had carried away the water of Monday's rain very quickly, but the bedding and the contents of the tents had got pretty wet, and during the next three days there was a very general airing and drying in progress. Mr. Bennett said very few of the tents had been flooded, but the people in the tents told a different story. The trenches had become partially filled up with earth, washed down by the water, and there seemed little or no disposition on the part of the people to help themselves or help each other by digging them out again before another storm came on. One of the doctors (Dr. Ralston) showed us that his bell-tent had kept perfectly dry in virtue of a well-constructed trench.

4. *Rations.*—Meat ration is served out daily—grocery once a week. Tickets are used—they are issued each month. On the ticket a space is given for each day in the month, and as the ration is given the issuer strikes through the day with a pencil. Each family is supposed to draw its own ration, but we saw numerous instances in which one small child drew three or even four meat rations together. The meat which we saw served out on the four days we were in this camp was extremely poor and thin. A whole sheep often weighed only 18 lbs. We were told that no better meat was to be had, that it was now at its worst and might be expected to improve as the pasture would soon become better in consequence of the rains. The camp people showed their discontent with the meat by throwing large portions, which had been newly served out, of good fresh, though thin meat, into the wide roadway of the camp. It would have made very good broth or stew. We supposed that this wicked waste was a sort of bravado for the purpose of showing us how discontented they were; but we took it as a proof that, at any rate, the people in the camp were not short of food. Almost any poor family in England would have been thankful to have such meat, and would have made most excellent meals from it.

The *Grocery Rations* are not served out on a good method. There is no order in the distribution. The issue begins at 6 a.m. and goes on till 3.30 or 4 in the afternoon. The Commission strongly recommend the adoption of the "block" system for the issue of rations. The camp is already divided

into sections of 90 tents, and these sections are subdivided into blocks of 30 tents each. The adoption of the "block" system for issuing rations (as at Bethulie) would therefore not present any great practical difficulties, and it would save much waste of time both for the issuers and for those who draw the rations. Both the schoolmasters complained to the Commission of the interruption to school involved by children being called out of school to draw rations—a process which generally took quite two hours.

5. *Kitchens.*—All separate. The cooking of daily meals is mostly done by boiling, but the camp people also have ovens of clay and sun-dried brick for baking bread.

6. *Fuel.*—The Superintendent was rather vague about the fuel ration. He said, when coal and wood came in, it was divided up by corporals. The camp was now provided with coal from the Springs coal mines. All the bush in the immediate neighbourhood had been cut for fuel, and we saw several people at work with pickaxes digging up roots for burning. A very loyal Englishwoman whom we found in this camp said the short supply of fuel was the one thing she found hard. She could get on from day to day with her daily meals, but she could not manage without buying fuel to heat her oven to bake bread.

7. No slaughtering in camp.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The Superintendent said quite half the people slept on the ground; it would probably not be an over-statement to say two-thirds. Some bedsteads had been made in camp, but no special effort had been made to promote or encourage their manufacture. No waterproof sheets had been issued, but there was a very great quantity of blankets. The Commission saw blankets lying about on the veldt between the two camps—their misuse in the hospital will be noticed under No. 11. The Superintendent said he had "any amount" of blankets in the store. When people left for other camps they were always allowed to take their blankets with them. This seems quite a right thing.

9. *Clothing.*—There had been a large issue from the Government. Gifts had also been received from the Netherlands Fund and from private societies. Miss Fleck distributed these without consultation with the Superintendent. Mr. Daniel, the minister, advises the Superintendent about clothing.

10. *Shops.*—There are 10 or 11 in the two camps; they were well stocked, and full of customers. Their contents were by no means confined to strict necessaries. In one we saw a grammophone; in another, watches and sewing machines. Mr. Pearce, Director of Civil Supplies, whom we met in Bloemfontein, told us that the shopkeepers indented for useless luxuries such as silk blouses, eau de Cologne, and grammophones rather than for necessaries. The indents he handed to the Commission the following day only partially corroborated this statement, but they comprise such articles as chocolate, brawn, jam, cloves, chow-chow, &c.

11. *Hospital.*—There are five medical officers, all resident in camp. The nursing staff consists of one matron, five head nurses, 25 local assistants (out of the camp), two dispensers, and servant.

The hospital consists of six wood and iron huts (three large and three small) and three marquees. The number of beds is 182; the number of patients on the 19th September, 169. Three small huts, one large hut, and two marquees are for typhoid only. One marquee, blown down by a recent storm, was intended for diphtheria.

The large huts, of which Miss Highway was the matron, were in many respects the best hospital wards the Commission have yet seen in any camp. In most cases there were small lockers beside the beds—each of the large wards had its own kitchen with a good stove in it—the three small typhoid wards had one kitchen between them. The large wards had one end partitioned off to form a bath-room and store closet. The Commission saw some soiled linen here and pointed out that this was not the right place for it. The most serious fault to be found in the hospital arrangements is the failure to boil or disinfect enteric sheets. They are just washed in cold water with

other sheets and clothes. The pails from the enteric latrines are not disinfected and the contents are not burned nor kept separate. Everything is mixed and taken to trenches far enough away from the camp, but within the drainage area of the Bloemfontein Sluit. The hospital should be provided with a tent containing a tub or bath of disinfectant for enteric linen and a boiler for boiling the sheets.

The floors of the large huts have double blankets nailed down upon them between the beds. This forms a much too favourable breeding place for germs. They should be taken up. The small typhoid wards were lined entirely with blankets on the floors and walls; these should be removed and replaced by canvas or sailcloth where necessary. In the typhoid marquee the blankets were three thick upon the floors; these should be replaced by tarpaulin, which could be washed over every day with disinfectants.

The ventilators at the ends of the hospital wards were covered with calico, and the roof was also lined with the same material, without any ventilating holes. Even with the windows open this made the hospital not as fresh as it ought to have been.

While mentioning these drawbacks, the Commission wish to bear testimony to the general good management of the hospital. The patients were well cared for and looked happy. The treatment was good, and many critical cases were doing well. The matron seems the right person in the right place, and she has a good staff of nurses. The Commission would suggest a little more change for the nurses, whose life is very monotonous. A mail cart goes into Bloemfontein every day and back again. It could easily be arranged to allow the nurses to go by turn in this to Bloemfontein on certain days.

The dispensary and store for medical comforts was amply provided with everything which could be required.

The isolation camp was not well arranged. A wrong system prevails. If a case of diphtheria is discovered in a tent, the patient's family and tent are removed to the isolation camp, where there is no nurse and no doctor very near. It is right to isolate the family, but they should not be shut up in a tent with the diphtheric patient. There should be a separate marquee for diphtheria, with a nurse for the sick children. The Commission was shown such a marquee, but it was flat on the ground and was therefore, of course, useless for practical purposes.

Out-patients are seen twice a week in certain tents by the doctors. Each doctor (except the P.M.O.) has a list handed to him every day by corporals (old men), whose business it is to find out the sick in the lines. The doctors visit these cases in their tents, and severe cases are at once ordered into hospital.

12. *Camp Matron.*—The Superintendent considered a camp matron unnecessary. He believed the corporals reported all cases of sickness. Dr. Ralston told the Commission he had recently gone all through Block D of old camp and found six cases of diphtheria; he discovered one tent in which two children had died of diphtheria and had never been seen by a doctor, and two more were down with it. These cases had never been reported by the corporals.

13. *Ministers of Religion.*—Rev. Daniel and Rev. de Wet. Several ministers also come out from Bloemfontein.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Able-bodied men are compelled to do six hours' work daily. If they refuse they are reported by the corporals and sent to the "undesirable" camp, where they have to work for eight hours a day. No one had been sent there for three or four weeks. There was a wired-in enclosure for unruly women. The camp is strictly out of bounds for all military camps.

15. *Education.*—There are two schools, one in each camp. They started in February—the schoolmasters are Mr. McClatchie (Irish American) in the new camp, and Mr. de Wet, an ex-Greenpoint prisoner in the old camp. The school in the new camp is held in three wood and iron huts with good flooring of wood, benches and tables. Mr. McClatchie has five assistants and two pupil

teachers. There are 725 names on the books, and an average attendance of about 500. There was a bright, animated expression in the children's faces. They sang action songs—Mr. McClatchie walked up and down and stopped them occasionally to correct their pronunciation — he would make them repeat such words as "breath" for instance several times to make them perfect in the "th" sound. There is a piano in one of the school rooms. All through the epidemics the schools in this camp have never been closed. It is Mr. Sargant's view that the children are not more exposed to infection in a well-aired school room than they are in the close and often infected tents. A doctor frequently inspected the children to watch for cases of illness; cleanliness is strictly enjoined. The junior school meets in the morning and the senior school in the afternoon. Mr. McClatchie makes a tent-to-tent visitation, and persuades parents of the advantages of education. This has had a good result. The schoolrooms were well filled, and another large room of sun-dried brick is being built at the other end of the new camp. Mr. McClatchie thinks well of the capacity of the children, and spoke of their powers of mental arithmetic. He also said that many of the children were very plodding. The Commission visited this school twice; many of the children were very poorly dressed, a few were barefooted. Mr. McClatchie said that eight dozen pairs of boots had been distributed by gift from the Netherlands Fund; 12 dozen had been requisitioned from Capt. Trollope, and 40 pairs had been received. Mr. McClatchie would like to start a sort of clothing club and sewing class among the elder girls, in order to distribute clothing among those most in need. Mr. McClatchie said he thought there were 200 children in camp who were prevented attending school from want of boots and other clothes. The school in the old camp is in four large bucksail shelters. The floor of these were, on Thursday, still quite wet from the heavy rains on Monday. It would be a good thing if the sailcloth forming the sides could be made to lift up, so as to get sun and air through the shelters after rain. This arrangement has been adopted at the Springfontein school shelters, but the camps never learn from one another. The schoolmaster, Mr. de Wet, spoke of the disadvantage to the children and teachers of standing on wet ground. The plan of lifting the sides practised at Springfontein was described to him, but he appeared to think that as the sides of the shelter were nailed down at Bloemfontein, so they must remain for all time. De Wet had 386 children on his books, and an average attendance of 300. He has five assistants. All the shelters were full. He gives the children a quarter of an hour's break in every hour. He complained a good deal of the interruption to school work caused by the children being withdrawn to fetch rations. There was vivacity and alertness about the children, and the teaching and the general impression produced on the Commission by these two schools was very favourable.

16. *Occupations.*—Pitching and trenching the new camp had caused a great deal of work, and, as previously mentioned, 6 hours' labour a day is required of each adult male. Bricks are also made in camp. The education department has lately paid 23 men and a foremen for making 12,000 bricks for the new school; each man received 10*s.*, and the foreman 1*l.*, and the work was done in two days. It is proposed to make a garden, and work-shops for boot-making, carpentering, etc., are in course of erection. Coffins are not made in camp, but in Bloemfontein 400*l.* was paid for coffins in the month of August.

17. *Orphans.*—Relations take them.

18. *Local Committees.*—The committee, of which Miss Fleck is secretary, and Mrs. Blignaut president, has been already referred to. These ladies called on the Commission, and thanked them for their friendly interest in "our people." They were informed of what the Commission had seen of the throwing away, into the roadway, of the newly served out rations of fresh meat. They did not defend it in any way, and they admitted that at the present time it was extremely hard for anyone in Bloemfontein to get any meat except this extremely poor thin mutton.

19.—*Ages of those who have Died.*—From 17th February to 30th April, the number of deaths was 100; from 1st May to 18th September, 524—total 624, of which—

35 were under one year.
205 were between 1 and 5.
99 „ „ 5 „ 10.
49 „ „ 10 „ 15.
27 „ „ 15 „ 20.
16 „ „ 20 „ 25.
93 „ above 25.

During May there were 141 deaths.
„ June „ „ 137 „
„ July „ „ 102 „
„ August „ „ 96 „

In September up to the 19th, there were 48 deaths.

20. Very few people had applied to leave the camp altogether, to be taken charge of by friends in Cape Colony or elsewhere. If such applications were made, they would be referred to the Commandant of the place to which the applicant wished to go.

21. *Servants.*—Very few had servants, and they were not rationed.

22. In the case of death, the corpse was properly shrouded and coffined. The information given by the Superintendent on this point was confirmed by observation in the mortuary, by other enquiries, by photographs shown by women in camp of their dead children, &c.

Recommendations regarding the Camp at Bloemfontein.

(1.) That care be taken that no Modder River water be supplied to the camp for drinking purposes.

(2.) That convenient places be provided for washing clothes of people in camp, with suitable arrangements for supplying clean water for this purpose, and for properly draining off the dirty waste water.

(3.) The large dust heap where rubbish from the new camp is deposited is much too near to the camp. It should be properly covered with earth, and a more suitable place further off be chosen for this purpose. The limits of the new dust heap should be definitely marked with stones, so that the scavengers may not allow the heaps to become widely and untidily scattered about over a large area of ground.

The Commission consider that much of the time and labour of the transport corps would be saved if a certain number of "authorised" dust receptacles (say, one for every two or three lines) were made, consisting of a low wall of rough stones in horse-shoe shape, and every family required to deposit their rubbish straightway therein instead of near their tent. These could then daily be cleared. The stone enclosure would prevent the dust from the heap being blown about the camp.

(4.) The Commission finds that the system of issuing rations might be much improved, and they note that much time is wasted by children in waiting for rations to be served out to them, when they ought to be in school. The Commission have found that by the adoption of the "block" system of issuing rations no person is kept waiting longer than 10 minutes, and the whole ration of meat to 3,000 people can be served in two hours.

(5.) The fuel ration appeared insufficient, and the Commission recommend that it should be increased.

(6.) The Commission urge very strongly that the making of simple bedsteads or "kartels" by the people themselves should be actively and steadily promoted.

Recommendations regarding Hospital.

(7.) The Commission recommend strongly that all sheets and linen of enteric patients should be properly disinfected and boiled. They were surprised to find no proper arrangements for this.

(8.) Proper means for disinfecting the excreta of enteric patients should be at once provided, and great care taken to prevent all possible danger of contamination from this source. All the pails and utensils used for these patients should be kept separate, and the work of the men who carry out the disposal of this refuse strictly supervised.

(9.) A small sun-dried brick chamber should be made in which to hang mattresses, &c., to be fumigated or disinfected, and a place provided for depositing dirty linen.

(10.) The hospital wards should be ventilated at the top and ends.

(11.) All the blankets, except those used on the beds, should be removed from the hospital wards. Tarpaulin, which can be easily washed with disinfectant every day, should be used for the floor instead of blankets, and if considered absolutely necessary, sailcloth or some suitable material used for lining the walls.

(12.) The Commission feel that the present arrangements for diphtheric cases are wrong. It is right that "contacts" should be isolated, but the patients should be treated separately from the "contacts," and there should be a proper marquee with bedsteads and comforts, and a competent nurse to attend to them.

(13.) Some Berkfeld filters and some water pillows are badly required for the hospital.

In addition to the above recommendations the Commission suggests that it is advisable to provide a little wholesome change for the nurses, if proper care and control is exercised in regard to the arrangement. Life in the camp hospital is very monotonous. A mail cart goes every day to Bloemfontein and could carry the nurses in turn into town and back on specified days.

Although not strictly within the scope of their inquiry, the Commission beg to point out that the transport animals (among whom the death rate is very high) did not appear well looked after. The transport camp was not good, the stable was dark, ill-ventilated, and excessively dirty, and there was apparently no arrangement for providing clean drinking water for the animals, one of whom was drinking the foul water in which clothes had been washed.

REPORT ON NORVALS PONT, 30TH AUGUST TO 4TH SEPTEMBER 1901.

This is the best organised camp hitherto visited by the Commission. The main features in which it differs from other camps are—

(1.) Every adult man is compelled to give three hours' work daily, from 9 to 12, for the general community.

(2.) Attendance at school is compulsory for all children of school age.

The whole of the paid staff, with the exception of the Superintendent, Mr. Cole Bowen, the Assistant Superintendent, the doctors, nurses, and chaplain, are refugees. The clerk to the Superintendent, the storekeeper, at 200*l.* a year; two policemen, 15 corporals at 1*s.* per day; seven transport men and a carpenter at 3*l.* per month; the local assistants (probationers) in hospital at 2*s.* a day, are all refugees.

There is a good water supply brought in pipes by gravitation from a spring at some little distance. There is also an ample supply of wood or fuel, as well as for making bedsteads, &c. The people fetch wood for themselves, and can practically have as much as they are able to carry. The number in camp at the time of our visit was 3,215, viz.:—

517 men.
1,022 women.
303 children between 12 and 16, and
1,373 children.

Every morning at 9 o'clock Mr. Cole Bowen receives his 15 corporals, each of whom is responsible for a couple of lines; each has to make a return of the number in tents, in hospital, or left hospital, also to report cases of death or sickness. The numbers thus handed in are all added together, compared with the previous day's returns, and if there is any discrepancy the cause is searched for until it is found. Each corporal must speak English, and make his report in English. After the corporals have handed in their returns they go to the storekeeper and receive the rations due for the people in their lines. All rations (except salt) are served out daily; there is a large table (made in camp) in every two lines, where the rations are measured out to the heads of each family. No one else may receive them. Children used to be allowed to fetch rations, but they would spill the coffee, eat the sugar, &c., and complaints arose. The tables on which the rations are daily served out are scrubbed directly the distribution is completed. After leaving his corporals Mr. Bowen next goes to his orderly room, where he censors telegrams, receives complaints, and listens to requests.

We were present both when the corporals came with their returns and in the orderly room. A telegram handed in ran, "All well here, Love. How are you?"

As examples of applications and requests the following may be mentioned:—

(1.) For a man to see his brother who was going to Colesberg.

(2.) For a pass to go to Mr. Geo. N.'s farm to buy fat and vegetables.

(3.) The loan of small wagon.

(4.) For clothing. This was from an ex-Green Point prisoner, and Mr. Bowen wanted to know what had become of the clothes served out to him on leaving Green Point.

(5.) For a pass to go fishing in the morning.

This was granted for the afternoon. From 9 to 12 all must go to work; fishing and other amusements must come later. Applications to join relatives in other camps are very frequent. Mr. Bowen always attends to them as quickly as possible. If the people can pay their own expenses they are allowed to go at once. If they cannot they have to wait until a party can be made up, and then Mr. Bowen borrows a truck of the railway officials and sends the people free of charge.

The washing of clothes is done in the river, and the smaller things are washed in a spruit about half a mile from the camp.

The people have large pans or foot baths for personal washing served out to them, gratis, on application. There is a woman's bathing-place in the river, but it is very little (if at all) used. It must be remembered it was cold weather during the visit of the Commission. Some of the people are extremely dirty—verminous.

The water supply comes from the spring, as previously described, and is carried in a pipe to the lower end of the south side of the camp, where it fills a large cistern of 600 gallons, and also supplies three water carts, which take water round to other cisterns in different parts of the camp twice daily. The water can be drawn by taps from these cisterns. There is generally a pool of standing water under the taps, and, with two exceptions, the cisterns had ill-fitting lids. Children are able to throw things in. We consider that the cisterns should be fitted with covers, and the pools under the taps done away with, as they are liable to be used in an insanitary way.

2. *Sanitation and Disposal of Refuse.*—There are 21 latrines on the pail system, emptied twice daily by contractor. They are clean and well kept. They are in charge of 22 sentries and eight sanitary men, under a health committee, who are responsible for latrines and condition of camp and veldt in immediate neighbourhood of camp from dawn to dusk. The ground in the latrines is sprinkled twice daily with "Izal," and chloride of lime is used from time to time. The number of latrines for women the Commission considers insufficient. The condition of ground in camp is remarkably clean; that of the veldt at a little distance from the camp was in parts distinctly bad, *i.e.* the ground was much fouled. One of the greatest difficulties as regards sanitation arises from the habits of the people.

Dry Refuse is first placed in receptacles (large empty coffee tins) placed about the camp. Each head of a family is responsible, under the corporals, for keeping the ground round his own tent in good order. The main dust-heap is at a good distance from the camp, and was in good condition, not made a playground for children, nor used as a latrine.

Wet Refuse is poured into holes in the ground outside the camp, which are filled in from time to time. This is not a perfect plan, but there is no smell from the holes, which are frequently changed. The camp is divided into roads and streets by whitened stones.

3. *Housing.*—Bell tents in the main, but there are also brick houses of camp-made bricks and marquees which are occupied by two or more families. Mr. Bowen does not like to have more than five persons in a bell tent. There are 14 marquees, which hold from 11 to 14 persons each. There are also some very good E.P. tents in use in the hospital. The tents were, for the most part, very clean and comfortable, and the flaps have to be lifted every day, weather permitting. The tents nearly all contain military folding tables, and many had the military "biscuit" mattress in three pieces. Tinware for baking has been made in camp, out of old tins, and served out gratis on application.

In one tent we saw a very nice new-looking covered saucepan; on our admiring it, the woman took it down to show it, and when it was opened we saw that it had been put away dirty. About half a teacup full of infant's milky food was sticking to the sides. The single men's lines consist of large marquees; the able-bodied men have mattresses on the ground, with water-proof sheets, the older men having bedsteads with mattresses.

4. *Rations* are issued daily through the corporals, as already described. Cows' milk is scarce. Mr. Bowen orders 100 bottles, at 5*d.* a bottle, for the hospital daily. Other people have condensed milk. Mr. Bowen wishes for permission to add a ration of rice or potatoes once or twice a week to the present ration. He said 1 lb. of potatoes, after peeling, made a very small ration in itself. He had ordered rice, but such a bad quality had been supplied that he had returned it. We think ½ lb. rice per head would be enough once or twice a week.

5. *Kitchens.*—All cooking is done by each family separately. Very good clay ovens for baking have been made in camp, and each of these are shared by two families.

6. *Fuel.*—An ample supply is brought up from the river bank. It is all neatly stacked on little raised platforms to keep it out of the wet.

7. *The Slaughter-places.*—The meat, beef and mutton is all supplied by contract; whole animals of good quality cut up in camp by the camp butcher.

8. *Bed Arrangements.*—A good many bedsteads have been given out. About 20 have been made in camp, of wood from the river, and the "webbing" is made of old hoop iron, which would otherwise have been wasted. These bedsteads can be made for about 8*s.* 6*d.* Mr. Bowen said, "I have not many sleeping on the ground, but more than I like." He said he had lost more children through their sleeping on the ground than from any other cause. The chief causes of death in this camp has been measles and pneumonia.

9. *Clothing.*—There had been a committee of camp people to report those who most needed clothing. When the camp increased in numbers this plan ceased to work well, and Mr. Bowen now chiefly relies on the recommendations of Mr. A. P. Van der Merwe, "the best Dutch Reformed clergyman I ever met." He is aided by a sub-committee of men and women.

10. *Shops.*—There are four shops in camp, kept by two Jews who are in rivalry, consequently prices are lower than in the official O.R.C. list. These men

pay a royalty of 5*l.* per month. The following are specimen prices in the shops:—

Oranges, 10 or 12 for 1*s.*
Cabbages, 6*d.* each.
Carrots, 9*d.* a bunch.
"Beatrice" stoves, 7*s.* 6*d.* each.
Flannel, 1*s.* 6*d.* per yard.
Calico, 6*d.* per yard.
Preserved ginger, 1*s.* 3*d.* per tin.

We saw in one of these shops a quantity of fresh fish exposed for sale at 6*d.* per lb. It had been sent up on ice from Cape Town or Port Elizabeth. It was selling rapidly. No Dutch medicines are allowed to be sold at these shops. Norvals Pont is out of bounds, so that the camp custom is practically confined to these shops. There was very little discontent or grumbling, probably owing to the variety of occupations provided. Very few had run away, about 18 in all since the camp started. Two good men employed in transport and earning 2*s.* a day, have lately run away to join commando. Mr. Bowen thought they had been egged on to it by their wives.

11. *Hospital Accommodation.*—This is divided into two parts under two medical officers, and consists of:—

(*a.*) Five E.P. tents.

(*b.*) Six marquees, one empty, with all the flaps up freshening in sun and air. Six beds in each E.P. tent and marquee. Both tents and marquees are well ventilated, light and well kept. The floors are made of hard ant heap, and covered with tarpaulin, which is kept well washed and sprinkled with disinfectant. The patients look comfortable, and as a rule were doing well. The medical officers visit their hospital wards at 9 a.m., then see out-patients in properly fitted up out-patient tents, then visit from tent to tent in the lines. All cases of sickness are reported by the corporals. Any serious case (with the exception of infants still at the breast) is at once removed to hospital. There is a separate ward for whooping cough, and a separate ward for chronic diseases, old paralysed women, &c., all are very comfortably cared for.

Miss Broers, a well-trained nurse, sent by the Queen of Holland, took the Commission through the wards. In reply to inquiry as to the need of additional hospital comforts, Miss Broers said she would like to have a large tin hip bath for adult patients, and also some soft towels for children.

The hospital kitchen, made of sun-dried bricks, is clean and well kept, with a large range and open fire. Meat and milk safes ingeniously contrived of camp-made bricks, covered with clay and well ventilated, have been placed in cool situations. There is a "service window" in the side of the hospital kitchen through which all the meals are served.

Staff, Hospital Department.

2 doctors.	2 hospital orderlies.
3 trained nurses.	1 dispenser.
8 girl assistants.	1 hospital quartermaster.
4 male ,,	

The medical department of this camp is in a highly satisfactory state, and it is probable that the people in the camp have never before been so well cared for from a medical point of view. There is very little objection now on the part of parents to have their children removed to hospital, and their chances of recovery are much greater. It is impossible to secure proper nursing in the tents, or to prevent improper feeding. A child named Stuart had been killed by his mother taking him out of hospital just as he was recovering from pneumonia. He was doing well, temperature 101. The mother rushed into the hospital and carried him away. The temperature immediately went up to 104·5 in the mother's tent, and the child, though brought back to hospital, never rallied, but died in a few days.

12. *Camp Matron.*—"Excellent, if a suitable woman can be found." Mr. Bowen recommended Miss Broers for the post, but confessed that though excellent as a nurse she had not much power of organisation or of teaching.

13. *Chaplain.*—Reverend A. P. Van der Merwe, a very refined intellectual-looking man from Beaufort West. He was just returning there for a fortnight's holiday. His wife and children remain at Beaufort West. They had never joined him in the camp. He told us he had lost five children himself. We saw the outdoor service in camp on Sunday morning. There were about 800 people, comfortable looking and well dressed. Mr. Van der Merwe told us as many as 1,200 would attend in the afternoon. It was a very pretty sight.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—The discipline for incorrigible slatterns is to place their tents in the "Hog's Paradise," otherwise called "the Dirty Lines," or "Location." This is understood to imply disgrace. For obstreperous persons there is a wire enclosure complete with water supply and sanitation. The usual rations are provided, the only punishment involved is the withdrawal from society. A few days there generally has a salutary effect. There had at the outset been some difficulty about morals, but Mr. Van der Merwe had been a great help, and the placing of Norvals Pont out of bounds, and making the camp out of bounds for the surrounding military camps, has had a good result. This was done as much for the protection of the military as of the refugee camp. Formerly the communication between Norvals Pont and the camp was unrestricted. Mr. Bowen's experience led him to disapprove of this, and he instituted passes.

15. *The School*, which was personally started by Mr. Sargant, is the biggest in the O.R.C. Administration. There are 800 on the books, and an average daily attendance of 600. The attendance is increasing rapidly now that the epidemic is over. School attendance of boys and girls of school age is compulsory. The school occupied nine marquees: forms and benches have been cleverly made in camp with uprights of sun-dried bricks with boards across. There is a harmonium in one of the school marquees. When we visited the school Mr. Bowen instantly detected a boy who had come with a dirty neck and ears, and sent him out of the school at once to wash and return when he was clean. Instruction is given in English with the exception of a half hour's Bible lesson in Dutch. Mr. Erasmus, the schoolmaster, is enthusiastic about his school, of which he is very proud, and justly so. He has three male and nine female assistants. School hours are nine to one. There is no school in the afternoon, when the elder children fetch wood and help their parents.

16. *Occupation.*—Brickmaking, carpentering, shoemaking, and tinsmith work. The carpenter, who instructs nine other men, is paid 3*l.* a month.

There used to be a sewing class for girls, but the numbers became too great for this.

We found many women sewing industriously in their tents. There is a regular shoemakers' shop with many men employed. Mr. Bowen has a scheme for making a camp garden from which he would be able to supply the camp with a weekly ration of vegetables. There is some suitable land. Mr. Bowen thinks a camp garden preferable to allotment gardens, which he says would be very likely to breed fever, owing to mismanagement.

17. *Orphans.*—Mr. Bowen refers special cases to Mr. Bissieux, of Bloemfontein, who is secretary for a widows' and orphans' fund. The latter pays 1*l.* a month for a woman in camp to look after a family of orphans. In general, orphan children are taken by their nearest surviving relations.

18. *No Local Committee.*—None.

19. *Ages of those who have Died.*—Out of 164 who have died since the camp was formed, 46 were infants of less than one year, and 33 were between one and four years old.

Measles and complications following measles caused 15; pneumonia 31.

—	Under 1 year.	1 to 4.	4 to 12.	12 to 16.	16 to 20.	20 and over.	Totals.
March - - - } April - - - - }	7	4	1	1	—	3	16
May - - -	5	0	2	2	—	2	11
June - - - -	11	5	3	1	—	10	30
July - - -	21	13	6	3	—	17	60
August - - - -	12	11	15	1	1	7	47
TOTAL - -	56	33	27	8	1	39	164

20 *Servants.*—Are only allowed under special circumstances. No rations are issued for them, and they are obliged to sleep in the native location. Mr. Bowen has a horror of the way in which the Boers treat their native servants. He had not long ago seen a little native girl lying just outside the camp, dying on the ground, and no one would own who she belonged to.

21. *Permission to Leave.*—Mr. Bowen did not approve of this on the whole but he had given permission in a few special cases to old people. Their families get tired of supporting them. Five who had asked leave to go away had, after a month, petitioned to be allowed to come back.

General Remarks.

There was a good lawn tennis ground in the camp, and we saw people playing each evening we were there. There was a much better and more cheerful and pleasant spirit in this camp than in any other we had seen. Both men and women had a self-respecting bearing, they were busily employed with their daily work, and were not for ever gossiping in one another's tents.

Mr. Bowen said he liked the men from Green Point, and thought that they had gained in intelligence and discipline; but the men from other Concentration Camps he said were in general lazy and impudent. The people in Norvals Pont Camp belong largely to the poorer (Bijwoner) class.

About the rations. Mr. Bowen said that he would like very much to be able to give a little rice, a quarter of a pound or so, once or twice a week. His remark was "they want vegetables badly," and scurvy would come unless they got them. He also would like everyone to sleep on bedsteads—not as a matter of luxury, but of health.

We visited the mortuary on Monday morning, September 2nd. Two little baby corpses were there awaiting burial. They were fully and decently shrouded, and there was no lack in reverential care in every respect. On enquiring we found there never had been any neglect in this matter. The coffins, which are made in the camp, are covered with black outside and with white inside and are padded. The cemetery is about half a mile from the camp. The graves are marked with crosses. At any future time the families can, if they like, remove the coffins to burial places nearer their own farms.

The camp is prettily planted with flowering trees. Mr. Bowen and the doctors are constantly in and out of the tents; they spend their whole time in the camp, and put their whole heart into their work.

Mr. Bowen has succeeded in getting a most admirable staff about him. Dr. Key, Mr. Erasmus the schoolmaster, and Reverend A. P. Van der Merwe would raise the average in any community of which they formed a part. They devote themselves heart and soul to their work, with a result of which they may well be proud.

Recommendations regarding the Concentration Camp at Norvals Pont.

(1.) Increased latrine accommodation for women, one seat for each 50 is inadequate.

(2.) Provide the cistern for drinking water with well-fitting lids to prevent dust and rubbish being thrown in by children.

(3.) Provide for the main cistern a supply pipe and ball-cock fitted into a permanent lid, to do away with the necessity for filling the cistern through an opening in the lid into a trough.

(4.) Fill up all holes under the taps of the cistern, and provide pieces of galvanised iron for the pails, &c., to stand on.

(5.) Procure as soon as possible washers for the joints of the main pipe, as the various small pools of water formed by the leakage are likely to be used by the people as slop holes.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, ALIWAL NORTH, 4TH SEPTEMBER 1901.

The Commission arrived at Aliwal on September 4th, and spent the whole of September 5th and 6th in the camp. The situation of the camp is beautiful to look at, on a high undulating country between the Orange and the Kraai rivers two miles out of Aliwal. There is a great risk under present conditions of causing an additional outbreak of disease by the fouling of these rivers. The camp at present contains 4,500 persons. It was formed on January 11th and taken over by the civil authorities on March 1st. The Superintendent is Mr. W. W. Greathead. Neither he nor his Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Voss, nor Mr. Barry, R.M., who took charge lately during Mr. Greathead's temporary absence, resides in camp. They live in Aliwal.

1. *Water Supply.*—No water of any kind is brought into this camp. The tents are pitched on a slope leading down to the rivers, and all water used for drinking or washing has to be carried in pails up the steep banks. There were no water tanks or water carts. Careful people boil the water, but the great majority drink it unboiled and unfiltered, with all it contains. A drill hole has been bored, and at the date of the Commission's visit was covered by dirty sacks of earth, some of which had burst and the earth was pouring into the hole. A pump and engine are to be fitted to this to pump water to a high level to supply the camp by gravitation. The washing of clothes was done in the river until the Officer Commanding the district protested on account of the fouling of the stream. The washing is now done in pails and tubs upon the river bank, and as close to the river as possible. The dirty water (or a great deal of it) naturally trickles back into the river. A new system is in preparation: ten tanks have been erected on a scaffolding, and a small engine will pump the water up from the river. When this arrangement is completed the women will wash on tables inside the camp. Men and boys can bathe in the river, but there should be a bath-house for women and children. This could be supplied at little expense when the tanks just mentioned are in order. The water from the bath-house and washing-place should be utilised to water young trees, and not be allowed to run back to the river.

2. *Latrines and disposal of Refuse.*—The latrines are on the trench system; but no dry earth for throwing in had been provided, and only in one was there any sign of the use of chloride of lime or other disinfectant. The smell was abominable; in some cases the latrines were extremely dirty. There were five men's latrines of three divisions, or 1 to 39 men, and 7 women and children's latrines, or 1 to 177 women and children, or, reckoning private latrines, of which there were 27 kept locked, the proportion was 1 to 84 women and children and 1 to 16 men. There are no low seats for children. The supply for women and children is very insufficient. There is one latrine in three divisions for natives, in a very foul condition, and one for the hospital, but no private one for the nurses. There was one latrine in fairly good order for the isolation camp.

There is no adequate system for the disposal of refuse. Wet refuse is thrown out on the ground of the camp, and dry refuse accumulates in small dust heaps all over the camp. We were informed by the Superintendent that 40 native scavengers were employed at 6*d.* per day to clear away rubbish,

but there was little sign of any effective work being done. The current price of native labour at the railway station is 2*s.* 6*d.* a day; it is not therefore surprising that good work is not done for 6*d.* Scotch carts were at work the second day we were in the camp clearing away the small dust heaps with which the camp was covered; but there was much evidence to show that they had not been regularly at work. There is a large dust heap at one corner of the camp, the refuse from which was blowing all over the camp in the strong wind; and there were three more large dust heaps at the foot of the slope on which the camp was pitched, *i.e.*, four general dust heaps inside the fence, and any amount of private dust heaps. The cemetery in use for the camp had been placed on the banks of the Kraai River; this had been objected to by the health officer of Aliwal and the Town Council on sanitary grounds, and the burial place had beed moved to the high ground outside the camp, but as the ground in this place was found to be very hard, the use of the original burial ground has been resumed. In addition to this, every donga leading to the rivers contains rubbish. On the day the Commission visited the camp one donga leading to the Kraai River had a dead ox in it. When the rains come the rivers will be badly fouled unless energetic steps are taken to clear the dongas of putrifying matter. Dr. Watson, the health officer of Aliwal, was formerly medical officer of this camp, and resigned because he could not get a satisfactory sanitary system adopted in the camp, and he declined to be responsible for the serious risk involved in the present state of things. Dr. Watson addressed the Mayor and Town Council of Aliwal on the subject in the letter annexed.

There has been a terrible epidemic of measles and pneumonia in Aliwal Camp during August. From the date of the beginning of the camp on January 11th to September 5th the total deaths were 327. Of these 198, according to Mr. Greathead, or 204, according to the doctor, took place in August. The sickness was so severe and general that all attempt at isolation was abandoned, and there was practically no attempt to bring the sick into hospital. During the worst of the epidemic there were two doctors and two nurses and never more than 13 patients in hospital. A member of the Commission was shown a tent in which three women were lying ill; one was apparently dying. It was stated that seven people had died in that tent.

3. *Housing.*—Chiefly in bell tents; but there are also a fair number of bucksail houses and a few marquees. In some places the tents were very close together, and there was very little orderly arrangement in lines; there were no regulations in force about ventilation or lifting the flaps of tents, which were generally very closely fastened. On the whole there was not overcrowding except in a few cases. There was no trenching of the tents, but the slope of the ground may render this unnecessary. Comparatively few of the tents had ant-heap floors.

4. *Rations.*—It was the worst system, or rather want of system, we have seen in any camp. On entering the camp in the morning at 9 o'clock we went straight to the rationing place and found a store consisting of a double size bucksail tent. At one end was the butcher's shop, where carcases were being weighed and chopped, and at the other end were stored all kinds of food and goods. Two large tables form the issuing counter. The meat, which arrives daily from the contractor, is chopped by one man and weighed by another, then laid in heaps of different quantities varying from ½ lb. to 7 lbs. a man being in charge of every two or three heaps to issue it.

One thousand one hundred families are served daily with meat, and with the present plan of distribution this takes from 6 a.m. till nearly 1 o'clock to do, after which the same staff from the same tent issue either a grocery or a meal ration. There is no proper system, and the process lasts practically from dawn till dusk.

All the assistants are paid 1*s.* a day. One of the latter was ill when we arrived; most of the others worked the whole day long issuing rations.

Round the door of the tent was a dense struggling crowd, two-thirds of which was composed of white children and native servants.

The crowd, which remained like this all day, was prevented from entering the tent during the distribution of the meat ration by a young Boer with a

sjambok, who also collected and handed in the tickets which each person carried. As each person succeeded in pushing his way to the front, and in being served he had to elbow his way back through the crowd in the same manner laden with his dish of meat. The outskirts of the crowd passed the time in scuffling and sparring about—at one period in getting up a dog fight, which was with some difficulty stopped by a member of the Commission and a refugee policeman whom she brought with her.

The issuer in the tent had a book containing the names of the families, the number of members in each, an index number corresponding with that on a wooden ticket held by each representative of a family, and columns for the day of the month. As each person presented himself with the ticket reference was made to the book, and according to the members of the family, so many pounds were served to him and the entry made in the date column. In addition to doing this book-keeping the same man regulated the weight and adjusted the scales in the case of the sugar and coffee rations.

The customers who fetched the rations were often children of five or seven years old, and many were the bearers of two, three, or even four tickets for so many different families. The rations were then heaped roughly together in basin or plate which they carried. Shortly after we arrived an instance of the unsatisfactory result of this plan occurred. A woman appeared at the tent with a little scrap of meat and her ticket, saying she had only received a half or a quarter of what was due to her. On reference to the book it was found that her ration should be 3½ lbs. She brought 1¼ lbs., saying it was all that the messenger had brought her, and was immediately served with the balance. There was no means of checking her statement; she might have left the rest of the ration in her tent, or the messenger might have given a large surplus to another family. This occurred again and again with the same result. On questioning the issuer about it, he said that it was impossible to prevent mistakes arising in the hurry of distribution, but he could not be sure that he was not being "had" (to use his own expression) on these occasions.

We feel that this store and crowd is a centre of infection in the camp, in which sickness is rife. There was no distinction between the persons from the contact tents or the isolation tents and the general public in the camp. The dirty bags in which the meat for the enteric, scarlet fever, and diphtheria isolation tents were put, were all laid on the serving table and handled by the same men who issued the rations. When the meat ration was distributed the issuers were able to get away to their breakfast at 12.15 p.m., and immediately after they returned to serve out coffee, sugar, salt and milk. The bookkeeper told us he had had no time for breakfast since 6 a.m., and he was evidently jaded and exhausted. The previous issuer had been obliged to leave owing to a breakdown in health caused by the overwork.

After lunch we again visited the ration tent, and found the same crowd now waiting to be served with their grocery ration, which is issued by the same men from the same tent. This ration takes much longer to serve than the meat ration, and is divided therefore into two parts, served to different sections of the camp on different days. The same applies to the meal ration. Each family gets meal and grocery once a week. We did not notice that any returned with alleged underweight rations in this case. The distribution of these rations was still going on when we were leaving the camp in the late afternoon, 5 to 5.30 p.m.

The Superintendent, Mr. Greathead, and Mr. Barry, the magistrate, were in the tent with us for some while in the morning and watched the proceedings, which were evidently quite normal.

We consider the whole plan is laborised and unsatisfactory, and we recommend that it should be abolished and a better system adopted.

5. *Kitchens.*—All separate. Many have quite elaborate little kitchens, which they have built themselves, adjacent to their tents. A great deal of cooking was done on oil-stoves.

6. *Fuel.*—At the first interview of the Commission with Mr. Greathead, he was asked what the fuel ration was. He replied, "As much coal as they can consume, and some wood." On investigation this was found to be inaccurate.

There are about 13 English families living in camp, very nice people, thoroughly loyal, and not the least wishing to complain. They said the fuel ration was about enough to cook one meal a day, certainly not more. On subsequently questioning Mr. Greathead on the subject, he said the coal ration was 1 lb. per head *per day;* the camp people said it was 1 lb. per head *per week.* The wood ration was very uncertain. One loyal Englishwoman said, "You get very little coal, and no wood unless you are cheeky."

7. *No Slaughter-houses.*—All meat is supplied by the contractor. It was good in quality, but small and thin.

8. *Beds.*—Bedsteads (one or more) in nearly all tents. Bedsteads are made in camp, very ingeniously, in two pieces, which fit together.

9. *Clothing.*—Government has distributed clothing to the value of 1,100*l.* Some grants had also been received from private societies. A local committee of ladies living in camp has been formed to superintend the distribution of clothing. Two of these ladies also distribute medical comforts on the doctor's orders.

10. *Shops.*—There are 13 shops in this camp, well stocked, thriving-looking shops, provided with every sort of thing. Among articles noticed by the Commission were sewing machines, Rippingill oil stoves at 4*l.* a piece, iron bedsteads, drapery of all kinds, ready-made skirts and suits, hearthrugs, groceries, lamps, dolls. Besides the 13 shops there were numbers of coolie hand carts selling oranges, bananas, pineapples, sweet potatoes, &c. Pine-apple rind and tops were strewn all over the camp and inside many of the tents.

11. *Hospital Accommodation.*—There is sufficient for 50 patients, but there were only 13 in hospital at the time of the Commission's visit, and we were informed that there never had been more even at the height of the epidemic. Dr. Hoekster was the only medical officer from the formation of the camp till May 2nd, when Dr. Kops came. Drs. Heath and Bateman arrived late in August. In August there were 710 cases of measles, 166 of which, or 23·5 per cent. were fatal. Dr. Hoekster's return of mortality in August was 204, of which 81·4 per cent. were from measles, followed by pneumonia. No authority is exercised to force serious cases of illness into hospital. There are no corporals or other officials to report cases of sickness to the doctors, and no out-patients' department. The doctors are caught by casual messengers as they go through the lines. Dr. Hoekster had asked the superintendent for special sanitary constables, but the request had not been granted. Dr. Watson (as previously noted) had resigned on account of his dissatisfaction with the sanitary condition of the camp. Dr. Kops complained that his authority to send serious cases to the hospital had not been supported by the Superintendent. He had not enough brandy, as a medical comfort, for hospital patients, and none for patients in tents. On the representation of the medical members of the Commission that probably several lives might be saved by the prompt administration of brandy, the Commission sent up a case of 12 bottles the same afternoon to Dr. Kops. Dr. Hoekster had sent in a memorandum to the Superintendent with 12 complaints, of which the more important were:—

(1.) Hospital accommodation was insufficient.
(2.) Supply of drugs was insufficient.
(3.) Medical comforts were insufficient and method of issue unsatisfactory.
(4.) Medical staff insufficient. (Two more doctors have been lately supplied.)
(5.) No reserve of good tents, blankets, mattresses, slop buckets, or covered tubs for infected stools.
(6.) Sanitary police required.
(7.) Better arrangements for the quarantine camp required.
(8.) There was no consultation with the medical officer in sanitary matters
(9.) Additional latrines were required.

Captain Trollope had visited the camp and had said that all drugs must be requisitioned from Bloemfontein. Dr. Yule, the medical officer of health for

the Orange River Colony had also inspected the camp, and two more doctors had been added to the staff. Dr. Hoekster has broken down in health owing to the strain on him during the worst of the epidemic. Although the hospital accommodation is insufficient, there are four hospital marquees empty because the sick people are allowed to remain in their tents. Enteric, scarlet fever, and diphtheria are supposed to be removed to isolation tents, but the isolation is very imperfect, as people are allowed to pass in and out to bring water, rations, medicines, &c. It has been already noted that the meat rations for the isolation and quarantine camps were fetched from the general ration tent in dirty bags, which lay upon the serving table in the midst of the provisions.

There are signs of much enteric coming. The floors of the hospital marquees were loose earth, uneven, and soft. The mortuary was a rugged tent with loose earth floor. Outside the hospital marquee were 46 iron bedsteads standing in the open, getting rusty and spoilt. The pins were lacking, but a small piece of wood could have been used as a temporary substitute.

In concluding the report on the hospital arrangements at Aliwal, it can only be said that the whole was in such an utter state of confusion that it is almost impossible to specify what was worst. It is not here intended to blame the doctors; they were unable to get their recommendations attended to.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Although there have been 198 (according to the doctor 204) deaths in August, mainly from malignant measles, the Superintendent thought there was not much need for a camp matron.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Until lately, the Rev. Brink has resided in camp. He has now been succeeded by Rev. Du Plessis, formerly Dutch Reformed Clergyman of Zastron.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Refractory people were dealt with by the resident magistrate, Mr. Barry. The whole district is now under martial law.

15. *Education.*—There are five large marquees set apart for the school. The school is, however, closed at present owing to the epidemic. It is hoped to re-open it in a fortnight. Mr. Dykman is the schoolmaster. The number of scholars on the books is 350, average attendance 200. Two of the school marquees with the space between them have been thrown together; a boarded floor has been put down, and benches provided for use as a church on Sundays.

16. *Occupations.*—The Superintendent says the people "prefer being idle." There is some carpentering done in camp, and the people have built themselves ovens or kitchens. Bedsteads have been made in camp. There is no garden, but Mr. Greathead thought that three or four men would apply for allotments. Seeds will be provided gratis. Some of the refugees are in the town guard of Aliwal earning *7s. 6d.* a day.

17. *Provision for Orphans.*—Orphans are generally taken by their relatives. A woman in camp was being paid *2l.* a month for looking after a family of five orphans. Of course, these children were also rationed.

18. *Local Committees.*—There is no local committee, except that formed by the camp ladies already mentioned.

19. *Ages of those who have Died.*—46 under one year, 61 between 1 and 2, 39 between 2 and 3, 26 between 3 and 4; total from January 11th to September 5th, 327, of which 198 died in August.

20. *Permission to Leave Camp.*—No information.

21. *Servants are allowed.*—No more than one to each family. They are rationed. This is the only camp in which the Commission have as yet found rations allowed for servants.

General Remarks.

There was a larger mixture of loyal people in this camp than in any other yet visited by the Commission. These receive exactly the same rations as the others, but there was not the least grumbling or complaining from them. They said they knew it was war time, and they could not expect more to be done for them than was being done. One group of about fifteen English families said they had *one* request to make, viz., to have a latrine to themselves. Mr. Greathead was spoken to about this, and he promised the request should be granted. The habits of the Boers are so extremely dirty that it is a real hardship to have to use the same accommodation. One of the English families had made a little garden in front of their bucksail house, and mustard and cress was coming up. The Commission saw several members of this family, they were very cheerful, said they had nothing to complain of, and had quite enjoyed camp life. The dust on windy days was their chief trial. We did not hear, although we enquired, of any sickness among these English families. They had better houses than most of the refugees—bucksail tents with hard floors covered with oilcloth or tarpaulin. They had put up these houses at their own expense.

The Zastron section of the Aliwal camp was the dirtiest. It would be difficult to imagine any dirtier dwelling-place than some of the tents in this part of the camp. Everything was filthy. The floors were of loose earth scattered over with every abomination, the bones of the day-before-yesterday's dinner, pineapple rind and tops, and banana husks of doubtful antiquity. It is difficult to say whether this extreme dirtiness was associated with extreme poverty. In many of these filthy tents there were sewing machines, in one there was a piano, outside some were bicycles. In one a girl brought out some appalling fancy work done in red silk plush. The thriving and well-stocked shops were also indicative of a fairly well-to-do population.

This camp was raided by Fouché on July 27th last. The alarm was given by a black boy who paid for his loyalty with his life. He fell riddled with shot. Fouché's wife was a resident in camp, but he did not come for her, or even see her. He came with the intention of carrying off a former comrade named Risseux, who had surrendered, and some of the former Greenpoint prisoners. When Fouché entered the camp, Mr. Greathead, Mr. Barry, and other officials were seized; but Risseux persuaded Fouché to let them go. He also contrived to get let off himself; but Fouché finally carried off four men—Bruce (who was chief accountant to the Superintendent), Edwards, Ravenscroft, and Hennings. We visited Mrs. Bruce, who was very miserable about her husband. She is not badly off, for, although she has not been allowed to draw her husband's salary, one of her sons is in the town guard of Aliwal receiving 7*s.* 6*d.* a day, and she, of course, like all the other refugees, receives rations.

Mr. Algar, Mayor of Aliwal, called on the Commission in the evening, and brought them a paper which contained an account of a Boer woman named Mrs. Hennings, who was leaving the camp with a wagon, which was stopped by one of the picquets. She was asked what the wagon contained, and replied it was the surplus rations which had been served out to her in camp. The wagon when examined was found to contain:—

8 lbs. tea.	22 lbs. coffee.
240 lbs. flour.	7 bars of soap.
40 lbs. salt.	6 tins condensed milk.
28 lbs. rice.	

Mrs. Hennings signed an affidavit stating that they were surplus rations accumulated by her while in camp. This could not be the case, as tea does not form part of the ration. They must either have been bought or stolen.

Some of the women in Aliwal camp wanted to know whether we had been sent from Germany, and what we had come for. Our reply was, "We are "' sent by the British Government, to see all we can, and tell the truth."

Recommendation.

Remove the Superintendent, and thoroughly re-organise the camp.

REPORT ON BETHULIE, 7TH SEPTEMBER 1901.

The Bethulie camp was first formed on 22nd April 1901. It then numbered 1,500, and was situated on the slope of the kopjes above the present site. The camp was moved on 6th June owing to the difficulty of procuring water at the first site. A disadvantage of the present site is that it lies in heavy mist at night and early morning, at least this was the case at the date of our visit (7th September 1901), the village at the same time being quite free and clear. The camp now numbers 4,882 persons. The Superintendent is Mr. Russell Deare.

1. *Water Supply.*—The present camp is near an excellent spring, carefully fenced round with barbed wired to prevent fouling either by animals or human beings. The spring yields 1,800 gallons an hour of first-class water. It has never been known to fail even in the driest seasons. The spring is about 150 yards from the nearest part of the camp, and about 500 yards from the furthest point. The water is brought into camp in pails by hand. The hospital is supplied by a water cart holding 80 gallons. The washing of clothes is done in a spruit with a hard rocky bottom forming convenient pools for the purpose. Every Sunday four men walk down this spruit with brooms sweeping out all holes.

2. *Sanitation.*—On the trench system, and very rough. No proper seats (except in the school latrine) for either men, women, or children, but simply logs thrown across trenches. The wood and iron required for the screening of the hospital latrines have not arrived, consequently there is at present no hospital latrine. Every few days fresh holes are dug for emptying slops and stools from the hospital; no disinfectant is used in the holes, but every night about six inches of dry earth are thrown in. The pails used are disinfected with Jeyes' fluid and washed before being returned to hospital. At present in the whole camp there are seven latrines, viz., three for men, three for women, and one for the school. The ground round the boys' and women's latrines is very badly fouled, the ground having been more used than the latrines; and the ground outside the camp is indescribably filthy, in some places over large areas it is barely possible to walk. Up to 10 p.m. three policemen patrol the river bank to prevent people using it as a latrine; but one alcove on the river bank was habitually used as a latrine, as was also the dust heap about 400 yards from camp, and a dry spruit about 900 yards distant on the south side. The extent of the fouling of the ground in and around the camp involves a serious danger to the health of the inmates, especially when hotter weather comes on.

It is only fair to add that, with the exception of the school latrine, the latrine accommodation was so extremely bad that there is much excuse for the fouling of the ground.

Disposal of Refuse.—There are bags provided, one for every four tents, to hold dry rubbish. These are emptied every morning by Scotch carts. There are 22 old men called corporals (unpaid), whose business it is to see that rubbish is deposited in these bags.

The head of every family is responsible for the ground round his own tent, and the corporals' duty is to see that this is not neglected. The bags are often destroyed by the people putting hot ashes into them. The Commission were informed that 20 bags were destroyed in this way every day. It would be more economical to use old coffee tins.

3. *Housing.*—Nearly all in bell tents. The offices and hospital are in marquees. All tent flaps are ordered to be lifted for two hours daily, weather permitting. If the order to lift flaps is disregarded, the pole of the tent is taken away. The average number in a tent was, Mr. Deare informed us, six or seven. We found a number of tents with eight or nine, and, in one instance, ten inmates. More tents had been ordered, and arrived at the station while we were at Bethulie. The tents are pitched too close together. The rule of 15 yards from pole to pole ought to be observed.

4. *Rations.*—The serving of rations was the best system the Commission had seen in any camp. There are two centres from which rations are served. The camp is divided into "blocks"; each block contains 16 tents, and the "blocks" are called up one by one by a call boy appointed for the purpose. As soon as about six people in block A have been served the call boy summons block B, and so on; each family much fetch its own rations, except in cases of sickness, when the ration is sent to the tent by a policeman. There is no confusion, and very little waiting; the people in each block would not have to wait more than 10 minutes. The whole service of 2,400 meat rations was over in about two hours' time. The grocery rations are issued on the same principle, but take rather longer. No ration tickets are used. The chief distributor, Mr. de Villiers, has three issuers and 15 helpers. We saw these men just as they had finished the distribution of the meat ration. They looked fresh and bright, and were evidently proud of the smart way in which they had done their work. They presented a great contrast to the jaded and overworked issuers at Aliwal North. Mr. Deare and Mr. de Villiers would highly approve of the addition of rice, ½ lb. a week, to the present rations.

5. *Kitchens.*—All separate, except that four or five families will sometimes combine to build an oven which they then use by turns. The Superintendent had supplied old bricks for the building of some of these ovens. Some were made of sun-dried bricks made in camp. These ovens were in several cases really little kitchens or pantries neatly and cleverly made.

6. *Fuel.*—Mainly green wood from the river; but this is supplemented by coal which is served out when the weather is wet and the wood damp. The wood is fetched in five wagons, two belonging to the camp and three hired. Fifteen men are commandeered to go down to the river to cut the wood daily. The wagons arrive in camp about 4 p.m. At 6 a.m. the wood is cut up; labour for this purpose being also commandeered. Each corporal selects a man from his own block for this wood-cutting purpose. The serving of the wood ration is done on the "block" system. Twenty-two tons of coal had lately come into camp and were lying on the ground. De Villiers said he did not think there was much risk of its being stolen, for it would be easy to detect people who were burning coal when none had been issued.

7. *No Slaughter-houses.*—All meat is supplied by contractor.

8. *Bedding.*—Mr. Deare, in reply to inquiry, said he thought at least four-fifths of the people in Bethulie Camp slept on the ground.

We strongly and repeatedly urged on him the desirability of furnishing the camp with a larger supply of bedsteads, of however simple a description. He represented the difficulty of getting suitable material. We pointed out what had been done in other camps to utilise local material and get rough bedsteads made in camp. One good point in the Bethulie camp was the presence of a large number of high wooden frames outside the tents, on which mattresses and other bedding were hung up to air. We pointed out that if these could be made in camp of local material, so could bedsteads. Mr. Deare promised to supplement the supply of bedsteads or to promote their being made in camp. In the month of August there were 206 deaths in this camp, mainly from measles and pneumonia, and 75 in the first nine days of September. There were 13 corpses lying in the mortuary tents on the 9th September. The supply of coffins at one time had been short, and the dead had been buried in blankets, the same as soldiers who die in military hospitals. The people feel this very much, and the supply of coffins was obtained again as soon as possible.

9. *Clothing.*—Distributed by local committee of three ladies, Mrs. Becker, Dutch Reformed clergyman's wife, Bethulie, Mrs. Van Zyl, and Mrs. Joubert, aided by nine women selected from the camp. Their main reliance was, of course, Government clothing, but they had also received gifts from Mr. Schulz's committee in Cape Town. A good deal of shoemaking was done in camp. Eighty skins had just arrived, as well as uppers and soles for boots, indented for by Mr. Deare. Mr. Deare had a large consignment of Government clothing waiting for distribution in the store marquee on the date of the Commission's visit.

10. *Shops.*—There are two shops in camp. The storekeeper, a German Jew, complained that the Director of Civil Supplies at Bloemfontein kept him very short of the various articles he wanted. He showed us one large indent for Dutch medicines which had been returned with the endorsement "not granted." We told him that we thought this was a good thing. But the shop was very bare compared to others. The chief things noted were tinned salmon, men's shirts, women's skirts, concertinas, and cigarettes.

The whole of the Bethulie village and district is very short of supplies. All civilians are rationed, and have lately been placed on half rations. This half ration (for which, of course, civilians pay) is less than what is provided gratis for the Concentration Camp. In the village *no* one is allowed condensed milk except people with young children. Cows' milk is not to be had. Bethulie camp, with 4,800 people, gets 12 truck loads of provisions per month. Bethulie village, with 727 white inhabitants, is supposed to get four truck loads a month. (*See* Appendix.)

11. *Hospital Accommodation.*—Five marquees, three for women and children, and two for men. Forty-two beds in all, full on 9th September. In good order and well ventilated. The patients looked cheerful and comfortable; a large proportion were doing well. The staff consists of Dr. Wohlers (resident in Bethulie), Dr. Mackenzie, N.Z., five weeks in camp, and Dr. Madden, three days in camp. There are two nurses (both refugees, neither fully trained), Miss de la Rouviere and Miss Rous, and seven local assistants, three for night and four for day, and one dispenser with an assistant.

Both the head nurses did day work only; the night work was entrusted wholly to the local assistants. This is the first camp in which we have seen serious cases of enteric and pneumonia left at night to be nursed only by local assistants. In one of the men's marquees there was a very smart *bed* for the night nurse. In consequence of the energetic protests of a member of the Commission the bed was taken down before we left. The Commission recommended the appointment of a certificated nurse for night duty, and also the appointment of a hospital orderly and male attendants for the men's wards. More hospital accommodation is required, at least two marquees should be added. The hospital was full at the date of the visit, and there was still much sickness in camp. There had been 76 cases of enteric since May.

The hospital kitchen was made of bricks and had a range, but was not sufficiently supplied with boilers. The same boiler had to be used for supplying hot water for drinking purposes and for washing dishes, &c. All the drinking water for hospital is boiled and filtered. The hospital store tent was in a terrible muddle. Clothes, said to be clean, but unfolded, had been thrown into lidless boxes. Dirty clothes from enteric and other patients were thrown into the same tent, close to the clothes supposed to be clean. Dirty clothes, brought in by patients, were also lying about, and other soiled and broken articles. The disinfection of enteric and other infected clothing had been ordered by the doctor in a solution of 1 in 1,000 of perchloride of mercury; but his orders were not carried out. What is really done is to throw the dirty clothing first into the store tent with the clean clothing, then it is carried to the river by the washerwoman and placed in two half casks, where she concocts, according to rule of thumb, a disinfectant made of crude perchloride of mercury. The clothes are then left all night in the casks by the side of the river. It would be far safer to boil the infected linen at the hospital. The bottle of perchloride of mercury was seen by a member of the Commission standing on the kitchen mantel-piece. In commenting on the disorder of the hospital store, &c., it must not be forgotten that Boer nurses have not so high a standard of order and cleanliness as that to which English nurses are accustomed. A fully qualified English nurse at the head of the nursing department would produce a very great improvement in this respect. The views of the Commission on the disinfecting of the linen and the condition of the store tent were at once attended to by the Boer nurses.

The Commission wish to pay a tribute to the energy and skill of Dr. Wohler. The doctors have much to contend with in the ignorance of the Boer women. Mrs. Becker (member of the local committee already

mentioned) told us she had found children with measles full out on them, sitting up and eating meat. We were also told of children being dosed by their parents with a wine-glass of dog's blood, or a strong solution of Rickett's blue.

The mortuaries are too near the camp and hospital, and look dirty and neglected. The 13 corpses in the mortuaries on the 9th September were all shrouded; but there was a general look of disorder, dirty blankets lying on the floor in and near the tents. We were informed that the care of the mortuary is left to the people themselves, but there ought to be more order and cleanliness.

Hospital comforts are given out, both for the lines and the hospital on the doctor's orders. At present there is a lack of some drugs, such as bark, but an additional supply was expected hourly. As no cow's milk is available in the Bethulie District (on account of rinderpest) we strongly recommended the supply of "Ideal" milk be kept up, and that it should not be given out in tins, but mixed with boiled water.

12. Mr. Deare was at first not inclined to see much use in a camp matron, but at a meeting between the Commission, the local committee, and the Superintendent, on 9th September, the Superintendent came round very much to our view that a sensible woman of the district nurse type would be most valuable to go from tent to tent where children were sick, and instruct the mothers in elementary principles of nursing, the value of cleanliness, pure air, and suitable food. It was also urged by us that there should be a central soup kitchen to supply invalids with beef tea, barley broth, &c. Mr. Deare promised at once to order three soyer stoves for this purpose. Mr. Becker suggested the name of a lady suitable for the post of camp matron. The Commission has recommended a grant of 20*l.* from the Victoria League Fund towards the expenses of the soup kitchen.

13. *Minister.*—Reverend Mr. Tuckoff lives in camp, he is assisted by the Reverend Mr. Becker from Bethulie. We attended the open-air service conducted by Mr. Becker in the camp on Sunday afternoon, 8th September.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—"Not much difficulty," according to Mr. Deare. Some men and one woman had been sent to gaol, and sentenced to hard labour; for small offences the rations would be docked of milk and sugar, but the disadvantage of this is that it punishes the children for the offences of their parents. The village was out of bounds for the camp, and there was said to be no going backwards and forwards without passes. We noticed a considerable quantity of biltong being made in this camp. Eight policemen, all refugees, at 2*s.* a day, were employed in guarding the boundaries.

15. *Education.*—There was two small bucksail shelters used for schools, the attendance was very small. The plan had been adopted of taking only one class at a time for an hour and a half. The schoolmaster's name is De Villiers, and he has eight assistants. The school was seen at a disadvantage owing to the epidemic.

16. *Occupations.*—Shoemaking, carpentering, brickmaking. Men could earn 2*s.* 6*d.* a day at brickmaking. Men are commandeered to cut wood on the river bank, and also to chop it into suitable portions for rations. The Superintendent hopes to start a garden for the benefit of the camp.

17. No difficulty about orphans. Their relations take them.

18. *Local Committee.*—Mrs. Becker, Mrs. Van Zyl, and Mrs. Joubert (from the village), with nine women in the camp to help them. Their chief duty is the distribution of clothing to necessitous cases.

19. Return of the ages of those who have died:—

Under one year - - - - -	46
One to five years - - - -	132
Five to 15 years - - - - -	79
15 to 25 years - - - -	28
25 and over - - - - - -	43
	328

The deaths in May had been eight, in June nine, in July 30, in August 206, for the first nine days of September 75. (For further returns *see* Appendix.)

20. *Number of Persons* leaving camp to join friends, about 18.

21. *Servants.*—There are very few servants in camp, and no rations are issued for them.

General Remarks.

There was a very general outcry in the camp about the poor quality of the meat supply up to the 7th September. We were assured that it was impossible to obtain anything better in the neighbourhood. The butchers' shops in Bethulie had been shut because there was no meat to be had.

Mrs. Roos, mother of one of the nurses, was one of the most clamorous against the bad quality of the meat ration. She brought out some dried-up scraps which had evidently been exposed to a parching wind for several days. It was represented to her that if, instead of keeping it until it was little better than leather, she had made it at once into broth or stew she would have shown more practical capacity for making the best of things. The members of Mrs. Roos' family were receiving wages for work done in camp amounting to 17*l.* a month, so that she could easily have supplemented her rations if she had been so disposed.

There is a good lawn tennis court in camp, and another is being made. The lawn tennis club, of which Mr. Deare is president, has 42 members. People were playing all day long. We saw young girls playing at a little after eight in the morning.

Recommendations.

(1.) That a camp matron should be appointed.

(2.) That a central soup kitchen should be established to supply invalids' food on doctor's orders to patients (especially children) in their tents. This soup kitchen to be kept up as long as the epidemic lasts.

(3.) That a ration of rice, ½ lb. per head per week, should be added to the existing ration.

(4.) That there should be a greater distance between the tents, and the rule of 15 yards from pole to pole adhered to.

(5.) That there should be a bath-house for women.

(6.) That stringent measures should be taken to improve the latrines, and prevent the fouling of the surrounding ground.

(7.) That a great effort be made to provide bedsteads. These could be made in camp if material were available.

(8.) That more hospital accommodation (at least two marquees) should be provided with a proportionate increase of the medical and nursing staff, and that an out-patient department be organised.

Male assistants for men's wards should be appointed. Another boiler should be provided for the hospital kitchen; and another ordinary boiler for the boiling of enteric clothes.

(9.) That all patients (not infants at the breast) and especially that all enteric patients be compelled to go to hospital.

(10.) That there should be more attention to order and cleanliness in the mortuaries, that the doors should be turned the other way, and that the tents should be further removed from the camp.

(11.) That the overcrowding in the tents should be reduced.

(12) That the milk should be served diluted with boiled water.

(Signed) M. G. FAWCETT.

BETHULIE TOWN CIVILIAN DAILY RATION SCALE.

	Ordinary Scale.	Present scale, half rations.
Meal or flour	1 lb.	8 ozs.
Sugar	2 oz.	2 „
Coffee	⅔ „	⅓ „
Tea	⅓ „	⅙ „
Rice	4 „	2 „
Meat	1 lb.	

The ordinary scale has been in use since last January, and the people were quite satisfied with the amount issued, but the whole civilian population is now on the half ration scale in consequence of the short supply of foodstuffs. With regard to meat, some families resident in town kill their own sheep, and can eat as much as they like, but the butchers' shops have been closed four days, there being no sheep to kill. I have obtained 150 sheep from Cape Colony, and this scale of rations will for the present be reduced.

Note.—No milk is allowed to be sold, the small supply in town being reserved for issue to the sick and very young children.

(Signed) C. GRANT,
Resident Magistrate, Bethulie, O.R.C.

9th September 1901.

DEATH RATE, BETHULIE CAMP.

	Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 and over.	Total.
May	4	2	2	—	—	8
June	2	1	3	1	2	9
July	5	8	7	3	7	30
August	29	70	45	20	42	206
September	11	34	14	6	10	75
	51	115	71	30	61	328

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, NEWTON CAMP, KIMBERLEY, 26TH AND 27TH AUGUST 1901.

Superintendent—Major S. B. Shutte.

Numbers in camp at the time of our visit: 553 men, 1,135 women, 2,006 children; total 3,694.

The camp is about 1½ miles from Kimberley Railway Station. It was formed in March 1901, and then only consisted of 600 people.

So far as sanitation is concerned, the camp is well provided for.

1. *Water Supply.*—The water supply is the same as that of Kimberley, and no expense seems to have been spared by the Kimberley authorities in carrying out a good system of sanitation. We were told it cost 500*l.* a month.

2. *Sanitation.*—The pail system has been adopted, and the pails are emptied twice daily. There are separate receptacles for wet and dry refuse, and these are emptied and removed by three carts which work all day long. There are bath and wash-houses.

3. *Housing.*—Tents entirely, and they are overcrowded. In some there are as many as eight and nine in one tent, and the people keep them terribly close. We saw one in which five children were prone on the ground, on mattresses, &c., all down with illness. The mother was not unwilling they should go to hospital, but the hospital accommodation was insufficient. The people surround their invalids with blankets, &c., hung up as screens; the air in the tents is pestilential; the tents are not trenched, but the floors of the tents are often a foot below the surface of the surrounding ground. The object of this is to exclude air. We found hardly any tent flaps up.

4. *Rations.*—The scale of rations (children same as adults, with the exception that for children under two, at the option of parents, one quart of fresh milk is substituted):—

½ lb. meat, served out daily, always mutton
¾ lb. flour (sifted Boer meal).
1 oz. coffee.
1 oz. salt.
2 ozs. sugar.
1½ tin condensed milk.
2 lbs. wood.

There are periodical issues of Sunlight soap, equal to about ½ lb. per head per week. The daily ration of meal was then varied, and a ration of potatoes given out on one day instead. Accounts are kept against the well-to-do; it is not always easy to distinguish these. Not long ago a woman was going about begging for a pair of boots. This woman's husband had just banked 3,000*l.* At Kimberley, as at Mafeking, there is an enclosed camp and an unenclosed camp. Those in the enclosed camp are either rebels or "undesirables," *e.g.* those whose husbands have taken the oath of allegiance and broken it. Those in the unenclosed camp go backwards and forwards into Kimberley without passes just as they choose; 100 passes are issued each week to the enclosed camp, 50 on one day and 50 on another. For enclosed and unenclosed alike, all must return to camp by 6 o'clock, unless they have special leave from the Superintendent to go to the theatre or a party, when they are allowed to be away all night.

5. *Kitchens.*—All done by separate families. There are five ovens for general use for baking bread.

6. *Fuel.*—2 lbs. a head daily. They supplement it a little by purchase. Major Harris (of De Beers) had sent up a large present of wood to the camp not long ago.

7. *Slaughter-places.*—None. Meat all supplied by contractor.

8. *Bed Arrangements.*—No bedsteads had been served out except to supply hospital; 5,000 blankets have been issued. A very great number, possibly the majority, were on the ground on mattresses, &c. Many, of course, have their own bedding.

9. *Clothing.*—A large quantity of material has been issued: 3,000 yards of flannelette, 1,000 yards calico, &c.

10. *Stores.*—Prices regulated by Provost Marshal. Specimen of prices is subjoined. The storeman is a refugee who pays 10*l.* a month for the license to keep the store.

Specimen Prices at Kimberley Stores.

Salmon and herring -	- 1*s.* a tin.
Condensed milk -	- 9*d.*
Candles - - -	- 9*d.* a packet (3 for 2*s.*).
Paraffin - -	- 6*d.* a bottle (5 gallons for 10*s.* 6*d.*)

Coned beef	1*s.* a 1-lb. tin.
„ „	1*s.* 9*d.* a 2-lb. tin.
Sugar	4*d.* a lb.
Rice	5 lbs. for 1*s.*
Quaker oats	1*s.* a packet.
Sunlight soap	1*s.* 3*d.* a packet.
Sardines	3 tins for 1*s.*
Coffee	9*d.* and 1*s.* 3*d.* a lb.
Tea	2*s.* 6*d.* and 2*s.* 9*d.* a lb.

11. *Hospital.*—Three wood and iron buildings. One, a small building divided in two, is supposed to be a maternity ward. It is close to the mortuary tent, and has recently been occupied by a doctor who was down with measles. This reduces the hospital accommodation to two wood and iron huts, each holding 14 beds (one was deficient in cross ventilation and neither had enough cubic space per bed), and four marquees. The marquees were dark and ill-ventilated. The floors were of loose earth which ought to be made hard and sprinkled with a disinfectant.

The camp people dislike the marquees, but have not the same repugnance to the huts. The hospital kitchen and wash-house occupy one small building divided into two by a partition. The wash-house is very small, and the sheets have to be folded, &c. on the kitchen table. The enteric sheets are not boiled, only disinfected before washing. The kitchen is also extremely small; it has no cooking range, only three camp kettles and a pot to boil the hospital drinking water. It would be desirable to convert the whole of the present hospital kitchen and wash-house into a kitchen only, and to remove the wash-house to another building. There are two resident medical officers, and one visiting military doctor; four nurses, and eight Boer girls as local probationers. The nurses' pay is good, but it is not easy to obtain the services of the right sort of women. Probably, the reasons may be inferred from the following:—

The Doctors' and Nurses' Mess Tent consists of a marquee utterly bare and uncomfortable; bare earth floor, a table in the middle with a narrow bench on each side; no chairs; no servants to sweep or lay the table.

Doctors' and Nurses' Rations.—The same as the Boer refugees, except that the meat ration is 1 lb. per day. All rations are served raw, including meat and meal; no servant is provided for the staff. The doctors, therefore, return their rations and get their meals at their own expense at Kimberley. This makes a reduction in their working hours. In the case of the nurses, part of the time which should be devoted to their patients has to be given to cooking and cleaning.

Doctors and nurses battling with epidemics should be well fed, should have servants to attend to them, and should have comfortable mess rooms and tents.

Nurses' and Doctors' Sleeping Accommodation.—Bell tents given entirely empty with the exception of a stretcher; no chair or table, candlestick or lamp. Such utter bareness and discomfort for a medical staff is most unusual, even in ordinary times; and when given to doctors and nurses endeavouring to cope with severe epidemics it is disgraceful.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Major Shutte was not favourable to the appointment of a camp matron; he thought Miss Monkhouse's committee (which had met once) took the place of the camp matron.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—There are no resident ministers in camp. Those who live in Kimberley attend the camp. The children in camp attend Sunday school in Kimberley.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Confinement in enclosed camp or withholding of passes to visit town. One recalcitrant woman had been had up before the Provost Marshal, but no punishment was inflicted, and she had behaved well since. Major Shutte had no complaint to make as regards morals.

15. *Education.*—A school has been opened ever since the formation of the camp in March. The present number on the books is 500. About half that number attend (252). The accommodation in a marquee and a small square tent is inadequate, but more should not be pressed for until the present epidemics have been coped with. The school is conducted in English. The head teacher, a man, gets 14*l.* a month; two female assistants 5*l.* and 4*l.* a month, and one pupil teacher 1*l.* The assistants are all from the camp.

16. *Occupations.*—A good many men and girls get work in Kimberley. These draw rations just the same in addition to their wages. Major Shutte had been urged from Bloemfontein to try gardening, but he thought it impracticable from the expense of the water supply. The great sickness in camp makes this a bad time for trying to start any fresh occupation.

17. *Orphans.*—Orphans have been sent to a Dutch orphanage in Kimberley.

18. *Local Committees.*—Of these there appears to be several, some in the camp itself and one in Kimberley town. One formed by Miss Monkhouse consisted of herself, Major Shutte, the Doctor, and Mrs. Hendricks. This had met once; its object was to advise Miss Monkhouse in the expenditure of the fund which she controls.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died.*—There are four epidemics in the camp, viz., measles, pneumonia, whooping cough, and influenza; besides some cases of enteric and camp fever. The following is the return of deaths:—

1st March to 26th August 1901.

Month.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 3 Years.	3 to 5 Years.	5 to 10 Years.	10 to 15 Years.	15 to 25 Years.	25 to 35 Years.	35 to 45 Years.	45 to 55 Years.	55 to 65 Years.	Over 65 Years.	Totals.
March - -	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5
April - - -	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	4
May - -	—	8	1	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	11
June - - -	1	7	3	3	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	17
July - -	7	27	14	9	6	3	5	—	1	1	1	74
August to 26th -	15	45	22	28	7	4	4	4	4	1	7	141
TOTAL - -	23	93	42	40	15	7	11	5	5	2	9	252

20. *How many have availed themselves of permission to go to friends.*—192 in May, 66 in June, 58 in July. Most of these had moved into the town of Kimberley. Only two had run away.

21. *Servants.*—Servants are allowed, but not rationed.

We called upon Miss A. and Miss B., two ladies who have been sent by a London committee to visit the Concentration Camps. Miss A. had written to us to say she had applied for leave to visit the other camps in the Orange River Colony. She said she felt she might be more useful "in some other camp where the need was greater," but judged by sickness, no camp could be in greater need than this one. Miss A., who has resided five weeks in this camp, did not make any practical suggestions for improving the condition of the people. She is kind and gentle and sympathetic, but as far as can be judged, no organiser.

We made special inquiry in this camp as to the due and reverent covering of the dead, and visited the mortuary on each of the two days we were in the camp, and found each body completely and decently covered; on inquiry we learned that this had always been the case. Major Shutte informed us that each funeral of an adult cost 5*l.* and of each child 3*l.*

We interviewed Mrs. B., who was loud in her complaints of the treatment she had received. A notebook was produced, and we asked Mrs. B. to give

us full particulars of her grievances, promising to make personal enquiry; her final answer was that she did not complain for herself, but for her neighbours.

General Remarks.

Four serious epidemics are now raging in this camp, viz. :—(1) Measles of a virulent type; (2) pneumonia, also of a severe type, generally following measles; (3) influenza; (4) whooping cough. There are also present in the camp some cases of enteric and camp fever. The serious character of the prevailing epidemics is sufficiently indicated by the fact that in the first 26 days of August there were 139 deaths. The total number of persons in the camp at the time of our visit being 3,699, this works out at an annual death rate of about 535 in the 1,000. Up to the present, efficient measures have not been taken to cope with these epidemics. We attribute this to the following causes :—

(*a.*) The medical and nursing staffs are insufficient.

(*b.*) There is no organised system of tent-to-tent visitation with the object of discovering early cases of sickness and removing them to hospital, or isolating the family where sickness occurs.

(*c.*) There is no organisation such as a central kitchen for making beef tea, barley broth, and other invalid food to serve patients in their tents.

(*d.*) The hospital accommodation is quite inadequate to the present crisis.

(*e.*) The people are too thick upon the ground. We saw several bell tents occupied by families of eight and nine persons. In one of these tents five sick children were all lying (on some sort of bedding) on the floor; in another, occupied by a family of eight, one was dangerously ill with pneumonia; in another, there were two enteric cases; there had been another unreported enteric case in this tent which had infected it. The bad effects of overcowding in the tents are aggravated by the habits of the people. They lower the floor of their tents, in many instances a foot below the surface of the surrounding ground, in order to exclude the air, and as soon as there is a case of sickness, the invalid is surrounded by blankets, &c., hung up as screens. Their clothing and persons are often extremely dirty, and all these things aggravate the virulence of the prevailing diseases.

We are aware that there is a severe epidemic of measles and pneumonia in Kimberley, and that there is almost unrestricted communication between the town and the camp; this, no doubt, is a source of danger, but it does not account for the immense death-rate of the last four weeks.

Recommendations.

(1.) We strongly recommend that the supply of tents should be immediately increased, and as soon as possible the rule should be adopted of one tent for a family of five and under, and two tents for a family of six and over. As a little time must probably elapse before this recommendation could be acted on in its entirety, the most urgent cases should be first attended to, and additional tent space given to those families where two or more are sick; and supplementary to this we advise the issue of "kartels" to all who are now sleeping on the ground.

(2.) We recommend the appointment of a camp matron, whose first duty should be to organise a band of what would be called, in England, "district nurses"; these might probably be found among the probationers now in hospital. If this were so, the hospital matron should be provided with a supply of trained nurses to take the place of the probationers she was losing. It should be the duty of the district nurses to divide the camp between them and visit each tent daily, to notify at once to the medical officers early cases of sickness, induce the parents to allow their removal to hospital, and where this is impracticable, superintend the washing, poulticing, clothing and proper feeding of the patient, and the due ventilation and disinfection of the tents.

We came across several cases of pneumonia in the tents which had never been seen by the doctors, although these were most zealous and unsparing of themselves.

(3.) A central kitchen for the preparation of suitable food for patients ill in their own tents, would be highly desirable at the present emergency. We are prepared to recommend a grant from the Victoria League Fund of 100*l.* for the expense of such a kitchen; but we feel that its usefulness is almost wholly dependent upon the appointment of a matron and nurses as described in recommendation 2.

(4.) The hospital accommodation should be increased, with a proportional increase in the staff.

(5.) Provide suitable quarters, rations, and attendance for doctors and nurses.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, KIMBERLEY (SECOND VISIT), 6TH NOVEMBER 1901.

We note a very marked improvement in the condition of this camp since our first visit at the end of August. The measles epidemic, which was then at its height, has now entirely died away. The hospital accommodation has been improved, and the staff of doctors and nurses is now fully adequate to the needs of the camp. A new wood and iron hospital ward 50 feet by 26 feet, built by the men in the camp, appoaches completion. The Superintendent has asked leave to put up yet another of the same size. Three of the hospital marquees are now fortunately standing empty. The ward which was formerly and incorrectly called the Maternity Ward, is now converted into an isolation ward for diphtheria. The mortuary has been removed to a more suitable position within the hospital enclosure. It now consists of two tents. There were no corpses in them on November 6th. The number of patients in hospital on that day was 38; their ages varied from 19 months to extreme old age. The appearance of the wards was neat and cheerful, and the patients looked well cared for. The hospital is well provided with hot-water bottles; it has two water beds and other good appliances. Mosquito nets would be useful. The chief illnesses now in camp are diphtheria and pneumonia. Of the former there have been six cases and two deaths. There is only one doubtful case of enteric. The medical staff now consists of four doctors, viz., Drs. Elms, Ellis, Woodward, and Trumper, and the nursing staff of the matron, nurse Poole, and four other trained nurses, with nine Boer probationers. A good marquee has been allotted to the nurses as a mess tent, and they have comfortable bell tents for sleeping in. A few deck chairs in the mess tent would be appreciated. Their rations now leave nothing to be desired, and they have an attendant to cook for them. The doctors mess by themselves. The former hospital wash-house and kitchen have been thrown into one and converted into the hospital wash-house only. There are five large baths for disinfecting and rinsing the hospital linen, but no boiler for enteric sheets. A new hospital kitchen, a very good one and in first-class order, has been built of sun-dried brick, with a capital storeroom and larder leading out of it.

The only difficulty connected with the hospital kitchen appears now to be to find women in the camp who are willing to act as cooks. The wages offered are 30s. a month and all found, but they are continually making complaints and throwing up the situation after holding it a very short time. The woman who was acting as cook to-day announced her intention of leaving immediately. She said it was "baing schwar" to fetch water, quite a little way, as Kimberley camp is splendidly supplied with water. Bell tents for sleeping in have also been provided for those probationers who take night duty. The probationers now mess with the five trained English nurses.

A soup kitchen (for starting which we gave a grant from the Victoria League Fund) with four 10-gallon Soyer stoves, has been set going under the direction of Miss Mellor, who has been appointed camp matron. She has a list furnished to her by the doctors, superintendent, and corporals of about

200 children, who would be the better for a pint of good soup daily, but only about 100 actually receive it; the parents of the others will not take the trouble to come for it. Miss Mellor has not succeeded in getting any Boer girls from the camp to act for her as her camp visiting sisters or probationers; at least she said she had not succeeded up to to-day, but on this day two had promised to act for her. We understand Dr. Kendal Franks has seen Miss Mellor on this subject, and advised her to pay a staff of about 12 girls to act under her as probationers for the camp nursing.

The ration of one bottle of fresh milk daily, at the option of the parents, for every child under two, is continued. This milk costs 9*d.* a quart.

The two public ovens which were disused when we were here in August are now used and appreciated. The Superintendent has indented for big tanks for boiling the drinking water, but has not succeeded in getting them at present. The fuel ration, 3 lbs. of wood a head per day, is good.

Mr. Shutle has supplied wood for making 39 "kartels," and he expects shortly to have enough for 50 more. We were as much struck as we were on our first visit with the magnificence of the washing places provided in the camp, but this time we had the pleasure of hearing the women singing cheerfully at their work. The camp is altogether a much more cheerful place than it was. This is perhaps sufficiently accounted for by the fact that the number of deaths, which had been 163 in August, fell to 53 in September, and 42 in October. The general aspect of the camp has been greatly improved by the planting of neat little gardens round a large number of tents. We believe this to be due to the efforts of Miss A. and Miss B. who have offered a prize of 2*l.* to be awarded on Christmas Day for the best garden made in camp by either a man or a woman, and other similar prizes down to one of 10*s.* for the best garden made by a child. The Government gave the seeds, and a large number of quite pretty and useful little gardens have been created. Miss A. hopes to start a camp garden and offered 70*l.* for fencing it. The Government offered seeds and to bear the expense (a heavy one in Kimberley) of the necessary water, but the men would not give the labour. Miss B. told us that she had come to the conclusion that the giving away of relief in the form of clothing did more harm than good. She and Miss A. also complained that 600*l.* worth of things sent up from Cape Town by Mr. Schultz's committee, and partly paid for by Miss A.'s committee in London, had not been consigned to her, but to Mr. Wilcox, the Dutch clergyman (now doing 12 months' imprisonment), and that he had given most of them away as from himself without reference to her. Miss B.'s view was that the people ought to be made to work; at present they despise work, and thought those who did it were inferior to those who did nothing; they were also getting to be too fine for the strong rough veldtschoon they used to wear and wanted smart boots. They could get leather on application to Mr. Schutte and make themselves veldtschoon, but this was no longer good enough for them. They had their doubts as to whether clothing material issued by the Government had not been taken down into Kimberley and sold. They supported the suggestion that it would be a good thing to put an end to the free communication between town and camp, and spoke of the harm done by allowing miscellaneous people to come in and give away clothing, &c. without reference to the Superintendent or any of the members of the relief committee in the camp.

The school is in a more satisfactory condition than on the occasion of our former visit. Two large sailcloth shelters were full of children, about 398 in all out of a total on the register of 421. The headmaster, Mr. Minard, and his five assistants are all Dutch. We hope it will not be long before some English teachers are appointed in this and other schools. Four new school shelters made of sun-dried bricks with sailcloth awning for the roof have just been put up, but are not yet in use. They measure 26 ft. by 22 ft. inside and only cost 30*l.* each. Fears were expressed by the Superintendent that they would not last, that the sails would be blown to pieces in the first high wind, that the bricks would dissolve in the first heavy rain, and that the right aspect had not been selected. We do not feel competent to offer an opinion on these points, but as we saw them to-day, these brick and sailcloth shelters are infinitely superior to tents or marquees, and they appear to us likely to answer their purpose admirably. The schoolmaster said school

would not be held during the hottest hours of the hottest time of the year, and if this is so the disadvantages of the northern aspect will be considerably reduced.

We do not give a report on the points in this camp which are unchanged since our first visit. It may be mentioned as an illustration of the more cheerful tone now prevailing, that a woman in conversation with a member of the Commission, though she began rather bitterly, said that her husband was on commando and that she did not know why she should have been brought into camp, concluded by saying that she had no complaints to make, that the food was good and sufficient; she said she would like the opportunity of earning a little pocket money, and then she added, looking round her neat clean tent, "It is beginning to be a little home to me." One unsatisfactory event in camp ought to be mentioned. On various occasions lately able-bodied men to the total number of 30 have bolted.

Before leaving Kimberley the Commission visited a Dutch orphanage, which afforded a home to 57 children, boys and girls ranging in age from 1½ to 15 years. Some children had been sent there from the camp. Some of the children were not orphans, but belonged to destitute parents who will reclaim them if their circumstances improve. The children looked healthy and very bright and cheerful. We inquired about their food, and found that no milk of any kind was given them either fresh or condensed. They had porridge and sugar for breakfast, soup for dinner one day and meat the next, bread and tea for tea. No butter or dripping or cake or jam was provided; sometimes they got these things as a gift from friends. The rations given in camp compare very favourably with these given in the orphanage. The orphanage has recently suffered from an epidemic of measles, but no children had died; there was also a similar epidemic three years before. The children all spoke and understood English perfectly, and were learning their lessons out of English books. Their teachers spoke much better English than many of the teachers we have met in the camp schools.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) A few deck or other comfortable chairs for convalescents in hospital and for the nurses' mess tent ought to be provided.

(2.) Get English teachers for the school as soon as possible.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, ORANGE RIVER, 29TH AUGUST 1901.

This camp, now consisting of 1,500 people, was formed by the military early in July 1901, close to the station. About 7th August it was removed to its present position (one mile from station) and was handed over to the civilian authorities. The Superintendent, Mr. Nowers, who had previously organised Vredefort Camp, arrived here a week ago. The site is not very good, as there is a slight dip in the centre of the lines which may prove troublesome when the rains come. Soil is limestone with a thin covering of sand.

1. *Water Supply.*—Copious and good (analysed). One well, 25 feet deep, for drinking purposes is in use. Three more wells with lighter pumps are to be sunk; at present all the washing has to be done at the station or the river. Wood and iron wash-houses are to be erected as soon as materials can be procured either from Kimberley or the coast. The present well mouth should be covered in to protect it from dust. Filters have been sent down, but are incomplete and dirty. A tank for boiling water would be advisable.

2. *Latrines.*—Temporary latrine tents have been put up. Materials for six galvanised iron ones have been ordered, besides extra ones for staff and hospital. A large number of buckets have arrived.

Dust Heaps.—These are scattered about inside and round the camp. Carts for removing them are ordered, but have not yet arrived.

Rubbish heaps and old stable refuse heaps outside the camp are used as latrines.

Ten inmates (paid) are employed to keep the camp in order. A health committee is to be formed, each member to be responsible—

(1.) For the cleanliness of a row of tents and of surrounding ground.

(2.) For the raising of tent flaps for an hour daily.

(3.) For reporting cases of sickness to the Superintendent.

3. *Housing.*—All single bell tents. The rule is five or six inmates to a tent, but several were found with from eight to ten inmates. The tents are in double rows with wide roads or "lungs" between them. Tents were being lettered and numbered. Good raised floors made of ant heap are being made. The majority of flaps were raised and the ground outside was very fairly clean.

4. *Rations.*—According to Orange River Colony scale. All supplied by contract. The meat is given out daily, groceries weekly. Soap at the rate of half a bar weekly per head is ordered, but has not yet arrived. One-twelfth of a tin of condensed milk (sweetened) is a daily ration. Fresh milk is very scarce. Extra condensed milk for children is issued on doctor's orders. The meat looked good, but was very thin. The inmates complained of the sameness of "meat and meal," and all those we asked were unanimous in wishing that one day in the week a ration of rice should be substituted for the ration of meal.

A few old couples without families complain of the meat ration being scanty. Some also asked for vegetables. Candles are to be issued as a medical comfort.

5. *Kitchens.*—Each family does its own cooking, except the baking, for which several families unite and use a military oven.

6. *Fuel* has not yet been issued as a ration, but is ordered, and the ration is to be 1½ lbs. coal, and 1½ lbs. to 2 lbs. of wood per head per diem.

7. *Slaughter-place.*—None, as only slaughtered meat (chiefly mutton) is brought into camp.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—Fifty beds have been ordered, only 20 have arrived. No bedsteads have been issued in the camp. Some families have brought bedsteads with them.

A few families have ingeniously arranged oil tins and corrugated iron for raising mattresses off the ground; 5,000 blankets have been issued. Several old women of 65, 70, and upwards begged for bedsteads.

9. *Clothing.*—The greater number of inmates were well dressed, but there were some evidently very poor families. The Superintendent had indented for a large amount of material. We recommended flannel for the little children.

We applied to the Victoria League for the following grant:—

50 yards flannel.
1 doz. Allen and Hanbury's First Food.
1 case Mellins'.
1 case Ideal milk.
5 doz. of lemons, or lime juice cordial, for scurvy cases.

10. *Shops.*—A shop is being erected. Prices will be regulated from Bloemfontein, the shopman paying a license of 7*l.* 10*s.* a month. This sum, along with a camp dog tax of 5*s.*, is paid into a central fund for supplying refugees with clothing. A sum of 980*l.* has already been collected in the various camps.

11. *Hospital.*—The accommodation consists of two marquees holding respectively six and seven beds. It is intended to have six marquees and 36 beds as soon as necessary materials arrive.

Hospital staff consists of Dr. Edwards and Dr. de Kock; one doctor's orderly; Mrs. Rutherford, nurse, untrained, but a sensible, capable woman; and four refugee girls to be trained as probationers and paid 2*s.* a day.

Medical comforts have been indented for.

Isolation tents for infectious diseases are placed beyond the railway, and are consequently separated from the camps by the barbed wire railway fence, through which there is only one narrow gateway with a sentry by day and sealed by night. Four cases of enteric and one of measles are isolated. The "contact" are also isolated. Typhoid stools are buried with disinfectants. Typhoid linen is soaked in carbolic or "Izal," and sent in closed vessels for boiling in the military camp.

New comers are placed in tents away from the rest of the camp until all fear of their introducing any infectious diseases is over.

12. *Camp Matron.*—None.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—The Rev. Brummer is expected from Sea Point.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—There is a guard tent for insubordinate women. The doctor and Superintendent visit the camp at night. The Officer Commanding Orange River has placed the camp out of bounds for the military. No refugee is allowed to buy at the station shop without a pass. This pass is only granted for a limited number of hours. Refugee constables are stationed round the camp.

15. *Education.*—No school or teacher, but Mr. Sargent has been applied to on the subject.

16. *Occupations.*—Inmates do all the work in camp. Two sets of shoemakers' tools, and also hides, have been provided. At the Superintendent's direction the men who are working are given extra meat ration.

The soil was believed to be too poor for gardening.

17. There are very few orphans, and they are taken by their friends.

18. *Local Committee.*—None.

19. *Number of those who have Died.*—Six deaths only have occurred since the camp was formed.

20. *How many Women have applied to Live with Friends out of Camp?*—Only one woman so far has applied to go to friends.

21. *Servants.*—Mr. Nowers approves of inmates having Kaffir servants, but Kaffirs are not willing to come.

Note.—Much cannot be said about this camp, as there has not been time for the Superintendent to get up the many articles (wood, iron, &c.) indented for.

The camp is very healthy. The inmates come chiefly from the Orange River Colony. On the whole they seem well-to-do and contented, though there were some cases of evident poverty.

Recommendations regarding the Concentration Camp at Orange River.

(1.) The issue of bedsteads, bed-frames, or bed supports of some kind, however simple, on which the mattresses can be lifted clear of the ground.

Sixty bedsteads have been indented for, but only 26 have been received, which are used for the hospital; some of the occupants had brought their own bedsteads, but the majority lay on the ground.

(2.) A very strict avoidance of overcrowding in the tents.

The rule in this camp is one tent to five or six persons, but the Commission found tents with seven, eight, and nine occupants. The Commission understand that there is little or no difficulty in getting bell tents here.

(3.) Greater variety in the rations, *i.e.*, rice or vegetables.

There is a case of scurvy in the camp, and it is desirable that a ration of meat and meal only should be supplemented by a weekly allowance of rice, potatoes, or vegetables. The Commission is aware of the difficulty of obtaining vegetables, and they note that the Superintendent sent an indent for rice while they were at the camp.

(4.) A trained nurse for the hospital who could train probationers from among the refugees.

The present nurse, Mrs. Rutherford, is not trained at all, though she is, the Commission understand, a sensible, willing woman, who was at one time housekeeper to some nursing sisters.

(5.) The issue of Ideal milk instead of sweetened condensed milk for sickly children. The members of the Commission are in agreement with the doctors in the camp that sweetened condensed milk produces gastric troubles, and is unsuitable for sickly infants.

Both kinds are the same price.

(6.) All cases of serious illness to be removed compulsorily to the hospital as soon as accommodation there allows of it.

(7.) A camp matron, with some knowledge of nursing, to be appointed as soon as a suitable one can be found. She should supervise the cleanliness of women and children and the issue of clothing material, nurse minor cases of sickness in the tents, and train refugee girls under her in habits of healthy living.

N.B.—This last recommendation has not been forwarded to the Superintendent, but the suggestion was made verbally to him and to the doctors, and was favourably received, especially by the latter.

Covering Letter.

Concentration Camps Commission,
Permanent address, Army Post Office,
Cape Town,
September 4th, 1901.

DEAR SIR,

IN forwarding the recommendations regarding the camp at Orange River, which the Commission visited in company with Mr. Harley on August 29th, I desire to make clear that the Commission is aware that this camp had only quite recently been taken over by the civil authorities, that the present Superintendent had been only been eight or nine days in charge at the date of our visit, and that the conditions are therefore abnormal.

The actual pitching of the tents was still progressing, these having been far too closely placed originally. Arrangements as to sanitation, the disposal of refuse, the school, the hospital, &c. were hardly in existence, but were being carried out with all the despatch possible under the circumstances.

It is, therefore, impossible to draw conclusions or to make recommendations regarding such matters; on certain points, however, the Commission desire to make recommendations, and a copy of these has been sent to Mr. Nowers, the Superintendent of the camp, who, with the two doctors, took every care to give us information and to assist us in every possible way.

The site of the camp is not very good, as there is a slight dip in the centre of the lines which may prove troublesome when the rains come, but we understand that for military reasons a great deal of difficulty exists on this point.

The health sheet of the camp is good, but pneumonia is beginning, especially among the children, and there being a lack of suitable food for such cases the Commission have sent a case or two of proper infants' food, together with lime juice cordial, for scurvy, and 50 yards of flannel for immediate use for sick children. The Superintendent had indented for flannelette only, but he promised to indent for flannel; this, however, could not arrive for some little time. A case of measles had broken out in one family, and the whole family, with their tent, had been promptly and effectively isolated on the other side of the railway line in the hope of preventing the spread of a disease which is proving so fatal in other camps.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LUCY A. E. DEANE,
Hon. Secretary, Concentration Camps Commission.

To Captain A. G. Trollope,
General Superintendent Boer Refugee Camps,
O.R.C., Bloemfontein.

ORANGE RIVER REFUGEE CAMP (SECOND VISIT), 7TH NOVEMBER 1901.

We found a very great development and improvement in this camp compared with what it had been at the end of August. When we saw it before, Mr. Nowers, the Superintendent, had only just arrived, and the camp was in a very disorganized condition. In September, the measles epidemic began; in that month and October there were 500 cases, three-quarters of which were followed by pneumonia. There were 19 deaths in September and 56 in October. The camp now contains 1,499 people. The measles epidemic on the date of our second visit was nearly over. The chief trouble now arose from pneumonia and diphtheria, of which latter there had been nine cases with four deaths. All the deaths had taken place before the medical officers were able to get anti-toxin; they had lost no more since they had used it. There had formerly been an isolation camp for measles on the other side of the railway. This was wired in and most carefully guarded; a sentry was placed on duty by day and it was sealed by night. This camp had been removed in obedience to military orders, and the people transferred to the general camp. The doctors considered this the direct cause of the measles epidemic; very soon after it was done, 20 cases of measles broke out almost simultaneously. The hospital now consists of seven marquees, two of which are carefully isolated from the others and are used for diphtheria and enteric. There have been 12 cases (two of which were doubtful) of enteric in the three months the camp has existed. The doctors are at a loss to account for them. The water supply is excellent and abundant. There are already nine wells sunk in the limestone rock, and a new one is being dug expressly for the hospital. The type of enteric is not severe, and there have been no deaths. Any tent in which enteric is found is struck and the ground disinfected.

All the hospital linen is boiled, and a destructor has been made for the stools.

The camp is still without a trained nurse. Mrs. Rutherford, who was there in August, has charge of the nursing, with the assistance of 10 probationers from the camp. A matron and two other qualified nurses have been promised by the Deputy Administrator and Captain Trollope. We think the hospital marquees do great credit to Mrs. Rutherford and all who have worked with her. Both the doctors have taken great pains to train the probationers. Dr. de Kock lectures to them and intends to hold an examination when he has finished his course of lectures. Both the doctors insist on personal cleanliness on the part of the probationers. Not long ago Dr. Edwards had occasion to ask one of them how long ago it was since she had taken a bath. She replied, "Two years." He ordered her to go to her tent and have a bath immediately. The doctors instruct the probationers to keep a written record of every event of importance to each patient; such as the number of hours of sleep, nourishment and medicine taken, temperatures, &c. The whole of the hospital precincts are about to be wired in; the ground outside each marquee has been dug and prepared for the planting of seeds and flowers; pathways have been made with finely crushed gravel, marked out by whitened stones, giving the whole place a neat and orderly appearance. There is now no more resistance on the part of the people to having their sick brought into hospital. A convalescent camp, consisting of three marquees, is about to be put up; the patients here will be fed up and taken care of till they are fit to go back to ordinary life. An additional ration of 50 pints of milk, made with condensed milk and boiled water, is now being issued as a medical comfort to convalescent children, and soup from the soup kitchen is served to about 150 children daily; 40 pints of cows' milk is secured every day for the hospital. Dr. de Kock says he would like very much to get 100 pints, but it is doubtful whether so much could be obtained. Mrs. Rutherford and the probationers have a small marquee for their mess tent; the probationers receive 2*s.* a day and army rations (1 lb. meat daily with jam, &c.), and a simple uniform. A few deck or lounge chairs in the mess tent, and also for convalescent patients in the wards would be a great boon. The dispensary is well and thoroughly stocked; it has a Berkfeld filter, and all water used

in dispensing is filtered. The stock of medical comforts is most ample—a large marquee is completely filled with them. We counted 28 cases of brandy, besides port wine, champagne, jellies, chickens, &c. The tinned chicken makes most excellent chicken broth. Dr. Edwards acts as sanitary inspector, and goes round to see all the latrines, &c. daily. He is of the greatest assistance in every way to the Superintendent, and a most pleasant relationship exists between them. They act so well together that Dr. Edwards can almost be regarded as an assistant superintendent. Dr. de Kock sees out-patients every morning at 10 o'clock, and visits those who require him in their tents. He has about 40 out-patients a day, and saw seven in their tents this morning. There is now an excellent hospital kitchen with a good range. A kitchen for the staff has also just been completed, but this, at present, is without a range. The soup kitchen is a good clay-built room fitted with Soyer's stoves. It is under the charge of Miss Nienaber, the camp matron. Miss Nienaber is a trained nurse, and in the opinion of the Commission it is rather wasting her capacity to employ her in making and serving out pints of soup, when she might be organising, with the help of some Boer probationers, a regular and systematic daily visitation of the whole camp to detect cases of sickness, and to see that patients not in hospital were properly attended to.

Three wood and iron latrines have been put up since August, and are not very suitable. Some of these latrines are labelled "For Men," "For Women" respectively, but not all of them. We think this should be attended to.

The mortuary is a square canvas house, not in very good order. It should have a hard floor made of ant heap, and trestles for the bodies. Three corpses were in the mortuary on November 7th; one was on a trestle, the others were on sheets of corrugated iron on the floor. The whole place was not as neat and clean as it should have been.

When we were here in August the women were obliged to go about two miles to the Orange River to wash their clothes. Now a capital washing-shed has been erected, with a double row of zinc-covered tables, sloping towards an open trench to carry away the dirty water. An ample supply of good fresh water drawn in buckets is close at hand. There are no bath-houses at present, but cement for making them has been promised. A considerable quantity of land in the camp is now being cultivated, and is sewn with potatoes, beans, cauliflowers, mealies, onions, &c. Gardening is now one of the chief industries in the camp, although at first the ground was believed to be unsuitable. There is also a flourishing shoemakers' shop employing three or four men; the Government supplies leather. The Superintendent has just indented for 1,200 lbs. sole leather and 600 lbs. leather for uppers. A pair of men's veldschoons can be bought for 1*s.* 6*d.*, and children's only cost 6*d.*, and those who cannot afford to pay receive them gratis. Miss Van Niekerk, a refugee (daughter of a respectable farmer), has been investigating cases of destitution, real or supposed. She told a member of the Commission that it was extremely difficult to find out whether the need was genuine or the reverse. She thought, on the whole, the camp people were very well off, and she spoke in the highest terms of the Superintendent and Dr. Edwards.

The school has been stopped for the present on the advice of the medical officer, on account of the danger of spreading diphtheria. There are two canvas school shelters, well filled with forms, &c.: a frame of sun-dried bricks is ready to form another school-room, and one other has just been begun. We did not see the schoolmaster, Mr. Fivaz. A clergyman, the Rev. Celliers, arrived in camp on November 1st. He comes from Maraisburg in Cape Colony.

The fuel ration is very liberal, 3 lbs. wood and 2 lbs. coal per head per day, besides shrub for kindling. The meat has improved in quality and is now quite fairly good. The contractor has been warned that he must not supply any sheep which weigh less than 25 lbs. each. A soap ration is regularly issued, and the people also receive presents of large quantities of soap from neighbours. Rice is now issued as an additional ration.

Dr. Edwards told us of a girl of 17, who came to his tent and used the most appalling language, in English, to him. He said he fairly lost his temper, for the first time in seven years, and boxed her ears. It was probably quite the best thing he could have done. He reported what had happened to

the Superintendent, who consigned the young lady to the guard tent Visiting her there a little later, he found she had employed her leisure in tearing the tent to pieces. He then said she must remain there till dusk and apologize to the doctor. This in the end she did. The same girl had been equally insulting to Dr. de Kock and the dispenser; but the punishment has improved her and she has given no more trouble since.

There is a very satisfactory tone in this camp. The good understanding between the leading officials makes itself felt throughout the camp.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) Do away with the bell tent latrines and substitute wood and iron. Label them "For Men," "Women," &c.

(2.) Put a hard floor into the mortuary and supply trestles for the bodies.

(3.) The hospital is badly in want of some lamps—seven; one to be hung on wire in the centre of each marquee; some deck or other cheap reclining chairs for convalescent patients; one or two of these might also be put in the nurses' mess tent.

(4.) 150 feet of piping to connect the nearest well with the hospital kitchen is badly wanted, and would pay its own cost in a very short time by saving labour.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, SPRINGFONTEIN, 11TH AND 12TH SEPTEMBER, 1901.

Superintendent—Captain W. Gostling, lately magistrate at Philipolis.

Size of camp, 2,920, viz.:—

	358 men.
	936 women.
	1,626 children under 15 years.
Total	2,920

21 officials and native assistants.

1. *Water Supply.*—A fountain well, 50 feet deep, sunk two months ago. It yields 18,000 gallons a day of good water, which is brought into camp in five watercarts manned by Boers. Each cart supplies 20 tents, each tent receiving on an average two large buckets of water daily.

A. Washing is done in a spuit at the bottom of the camp, near the railway line. This is flushed weekly to carry away all impurities, a certain amount of water is always kept running through, and an old man is constantly employed in looking after it.

2. *Sanitation.*—On the pail system. There are 105 pails, which are emptied and disinfected with Izal, chloride of lime, or carbolic twice daily. There is one pail to 28 people. The contents of the pails are finally carried to a valley two miles distant, which is also used by the military for the same purpose.

For the disposal of dry refuse every head of a family is responsible for the ground round his own tent. There is a sanitary policeman for every line of tents to see that this regulation is carried out. There is also a "Lads' Brigade," for special sanitary "Fatigues." They are not paid, but are given a few sweets or marbles from time to time. Slop water is placed in slop-buckets or barrels to be taken out of camp to a big pit.

The camp has its own transport, sufficient for all necessary work. There is no separate cemetery for the camp; all funerals take place in the military cemetery. The camp itself was very clean, and the surrounding veldt less foul than in many other places. Captain Gostling has a very strongly-worded notice, in Dutch, put up in the most central part of the camp, threatening severe punishment for the offence of fouling the ground.

Dust Heaps.—All dust is gathered into four heaps outside the lines, and removed daily with the contents of the latrine pails to the valley just mentioned. It is recommended that the hospital dust and discarded dressings should be put into a covered receptacle and not allowed to blow over the camp as they do now when the wind is high.

Slop water is collected in buckets. Slop buckets on wheels have recently arrived in the camp, and will be stationed at different parts of the camp and emptied the same way as the latrines.

3. *Housing.*—Practically all in bell tents. The hospital is in marquees. The lines are well pitched, 15 yards from pole to pole, and marked out by whitened stones. There are single men's lines. The average number in each tent is under 6. Flaps are ordered up for two hours every day, and bedding must be turned out of the tents once a week to air. Attention to this is one of the duties of the Health Committee. This committee consists of one man and one woman selected from each quarter of the camp, and presided over by Mr. W. Smith, a German. The Health Committee wear a badge—a band of white linen round the left arm. They visit each tent in their own lines daily, and report cases of illness to the doctors at 8.30 a.m., bringing with them in writing the names of those who are sick in the tents. The Health Committee also distribute clothing; they had distributed 63 bales. It is most difficult to guard against deception and fraud, but the Health Committee, having lived in the camp for months, have a better chance of doing this than any outsiders could have.

4. *Rations.*—All issued from the centre of the camp, meat daily, and groceries on Fridays. It is done on the "block" system. Blocks lettered A to Z, 12 tents in each; not so well as at Bethulie, but with very little confusion. A bell rings, and the man with the book begins with A 1, and goes steadily through the list. Odd bits not suitable for rations are dropped into a separate box, and distributed afterwards. One of these odd bits the day we were there was half an ox-tail. The meat we saw served out was of good quality. The Superintendent strongly recommends an addition of ½ lb. of rice per head once a week to present rations. He has a herd of 45 cows; all the milk from these is reserved for the hospital.

5. *Kitchens.*—All separate. The bake-ovens for bread are mostly outside the camp.

6. *Fuel.*—1 lb. of coal a day per head; 100 tons are now in camp, and 15 more truck loads were waiting at the station. Two wagons with teams of 16 donkeys bring in bushes from the surrounding country to serve as kindling. The camp can also procure "mist" in large quantities from the adjoining remount farm. Nevertheless, there was a very general complaint of the insufficiency of the fuel ration. People said that sickness was produced by the impossibility of thoroughly cooking food with the present ration of fuel. They very urgently begged for an additional ½ lb. per head per day to the coal ration, and also that paraffin should be allowed to be sold in the shops.

7. *No Slaughter-places.*—All meat supplied by contractor.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The great majority in this camp are sleeping on the ground. 1,000 waterproof sheets have been issued. Captain Gostling had requisitioned Bloemfontein for 400 stretchers, and has received 30. It was suggested by the Commission that packing cases might have been used to make bedsteads. Captain Gostling replied that they had all been used for coffins. Coffin boards had also been supplied. All those who had died in this camp had been properly shrouded, and coffins had been provided, although at the adjoining military hospital our own soldiers at the same time were being buried in blankets.

9. *Clothing.*—1,000 yards of flannelette, and 1,000 yards of dress material had been issued. Gifts had also been received from Mr. Schultz's committee. The Superintendent said he thought there was no great need of clothing, but the general appearance of the people was very poor. They are for the most part "Bijwoners."

10. *Shops* are three in number, kept by Jews in rivalry with each other. 20,000 lbs. weight a month is allowed by the Superintendent of Civil Supplies at Bloemfontein to be distributed between four stores, the three in camp and one other. Only strict necessaries are allowed to come in. One of the shops looked thriving, and was full of customers; the others were empty.

11. *Hospital Accommodation.*—Good, and not overcrowded. Eight marquees each with six beds, well furnished, and provided with deck chairs for convalescents, and decorated with paper flowers. There are small paraffin stoves and bronchitis kettles for broncho-pneumonia patients. All serious cases are compelled to come into hospital. In one marquee, where there were two children (sisters), both ill with enteric, the mother was allowed in hospital to help the nurse to look after them. There is also a convalescent camp of 20 bell tents and three marquees. To this convalescent camp whole families are transferred when they have children recovering from measles, &c. They do their own cooking, and get extra rations of rice, jam, Quaker oats, and milk; 300 persons in all have been in the convalescent camp. There were 38 patients in hospital at the date of the Commission's visit, 28 of these were enterics. The other principal illness in camp was broncho-pneumonia, following measles. There had been 54 deaths in June, 101 in July, 55 in August, and 14 in September up to the 11th. Before this epidemic the death-rate in Springfontein camp was extremely low. Dr. Webb (a military doctor) was the principal medical officer. He had charge of the whole of the hospital and the convalescent camp; the other two medical officers, Doctors Strachan and Stuart, working entirely in the lines. Dr. Webb was the only medical officer from the commencement in February until July, when the epidemic of measles was at its worst. There is a very good dispensary marquee well stored with medicines and hospital comforts, jellies, chickens, brandy, champagne, &c. Half of the marquee is used by Dr. Webb as an out-patient department. Although the rule is for all enterics to come into hospital, Dr. Webb told a member of the Commission that a case of enteric fever had been brought in that day in the twentieth day of disease, This was an instance of failure on the part of the Health Committee. The Superintendent acts, after consultation with doctors, in matters referring to sanitation. Nurse Bullen (trained) and eight female local assistants, and one male orderly, form the nursing staff. Nurse Oliver was in camp, but had done no work as she had been ill ever since her arrival with acute rheumatism. Two nurses are always on night duty. Friends are allowed in hospital on Sundays, and if the case becomes very serious, the friends are summoned.

The system of disinfecting clothes is good. A large box lined with zinc is used as a disinfecting bath. Izal, 1 in 20, is used, and all enteric and other infected linen is soaked in this before being washed. There is also a disinfecting house, 12 feet by 10 feet, where tents, matresses, clothing, &c. can be exposed to sulphur fumes.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Captain Gostling thought the duties of a camp matron were fulfilled by the Health Committee, and in this opinion, after meeting the committee, the Commission, to a certain extent, concurred. The work of the Health Committee has been already referred to under question 3. It may here be mentioned that during the epidemic of measles and pneumonia they organised a sub-committee called the "Young Ladies' Committee," consisting of 45 girls, who went round from tent to tent reporting cases of sickness, carrying medical comforts to the sick, and generally helping in the work of nursing. The Commission met the Health Committee; an account of the interview will be found later.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. Dommissie. His wife used to have classes for girls, but has lately been ill with measles.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—There was a good deal of difficulty at first. The camp is surrounded by military camps. These are now made out of bounds—the one to the other. Captain Gostling has an enclosure to which he removes obstreperous people, and also the very dirty. If women cannot govern their tongues they are put in here. Men are sent to the Prisoners of War Camp at Bloemfontein or ultimately to Bermuda.

15. *Education.*—There are five school shelters. Mr. Rechter, the schoolmaster, is to be superseded by Mr. Stuart, who has a daughter who will also teach. Mr. Rechter will remain under Mr. Stuart. We thought the children looked bright and interested. They read English well. The school tents are used in the afternoon for a confirmation class.

16. *Occupations.*—There are two tents where shoemaking is carried on and taught. The men who teach are not paid in money, but it is made up to them in kind. On four days of the week they work for the camp and for two days they work on goods for sale, earning about 15*s.* a week. There are several boys learning shoemaking. There is a little carpentering done in camp. About 40 men are employed by the Government, at 4*s.* a day, on the Army Service Stores, now being built. These men have been drawing double rations at the Army Service Stores and in the camp, but Captain Gostling is taking steps to stop this. Football and tennis are played in camp. A great many children were skipping and playing about. They did not look deficient in vitality in any way.

17. *Orphans.*—Captain Gostling applies to the Orphan Chamber in Bloemfontein whenever necessary. He has, himself, been appointed guardian in some instances; but, in general, orphan children are taken by their own relatives.

18. *No Local Committees* outside the camp.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died.*—Since the camp started in February there have been 270 deaths, of which 81 were of persons over 15, and 189 under 15 years of age.

20. *How many have availed themselves of Permission to leave Camp and join Relatives?*—Captain Gostling has vetoed several applications. "There is "sedition enough already," he said, "in many parts of the Cape Colony, and "to add more would increase the risk of a rising." Each Superintendent is personally responsible to the Government for the people he recommends to be allowed to leave. Three young women deserted under the following circumstances. A most insulting anonymous letter was placed in Captain Gostling's letter-box attributing every vice and crime to him and all his staff. He put up a notice in camp that until the writer of the letter owned its authorship all letters in or out of the camp would be stopped. After three days the girls ran away. One is now in Bethulie Camp. Their effects were taken by Captain Gostling and given away by him to the poorest people in the camp.

21. *Native Servants* are allowed, but not rationed. Two or three sleep in camp, but the rule is that native servants sleep in the Native Location where they get rations.

We met the Health Committee on Tuesday, September 12th. We spoke to them of the great danger attending the fouling of the ground, and they said they thought the people were willing to be taught. They said they had had double tents when the sickness in camp was so severe in July, and also an additional supply of blankets. We urged the desirability of bedsteads, and they said they could easily be made in camp if wood and canvas could be provided. Wood cannot be had locally. They spoke of the monotony of the rations and would be very thankful for a ration of rice. "Pumpkins," they said, "would be A1." They spoke of vegetables, and they were told that in some camps compressed vegetables had been supplied and the people would not have them, but threw them away. They replied, "Honoured ladies, the people "in this camp would not waste one little crumb." Their chief complaint was the smallness of the coal ration, 1 lb. per head per day, and every nine or ten days a bunch of "bush." They said they often had to eat their food half cooked, because the fuel was not enough to cook it thoroughly. This told against health and produced "weakness of stomach." We asked if they could economise fuel by clubbing together and having a mess for, say, four or five families. They said, "Honoured ladies, it is very true it would save "our fuel, but we should all have to be born again, and a new love would "have to be created among us; everyone likes to cook his own pot;" and

then a woman put in : "Yes; and if we put a fat piece in we like to take a "fat piece out." At the present time they cannot get paraffin at the shop. The people in camp would be very thankful for a little paraffin to boil water for a sick child.

They described the usefulness of the Young Ladies' Committee during the epidemic. Plenty of medical comforts, they said, had been issued for the sick, including candles. They were told about the doctor having informed us of an enteric case brought into hospital the day before in the twentieth day of the disease. They were much concerned, and felt it touched their efficiency as a Health Committee. They admitted there was a great tendency to conceal sickness. About clothing they admitted the great prevalence of imposture. When asked if they did not know of such cases they replied, "by hundreds," but said that they, living in camp, had more chance than anyone else had of knowing who was really in want. At present, they said, the chief need was for boots. There were 12 shoemakers in camp who could make 50 pairs a week if they could get leather. In August, Captain Gostling had issued 25 dozen of stockings. They begged for a rather more liberal supply of soap. In conclusion, Mr. Smith said, "We wish to speak with thankfulness of the kindness and goodness of Capt. Gostling* from the beginning of this camp and all along. Everything which he could do for us he has done."

Two very good points about the Springfontein Camp are—(1) the convalescent camp; (2) the disinfecting house, where mattresses and even tents themselves can be disinfected.

Recommendations.

(1.) Increase the ration of fuel and add rice to the grocery ration.

(2.) Provide wood, &c., for the making of kartels.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, BRANDFORT, 29th OCTOBER 1901.

This camp was started in March 1901; the present Superintendent, Mr. Jacobs, having arrived in June 1901. Since its enlargement the fence no longer surrounds it.

It is on a good situation and well trenched. Population—men, 450; women, 1,295; children, 2,184. Total, 3,929.

1. *Water Supply.*—There is a capital water supply. Four deep bore-holes with splendid water, one spring being strongly impregnated with sulphur. The water is distributed by eight water carts throughout the lines.

There are no bath-houses, but materials have been indented for. The washing of clothes is partly done on the banks of the spruit and partly in puddles of dirty rain-water near the sulphur spring.

2. *Sanitary System.*—Pails emptied thrice daily, well cleansed and disinfected; 11 latrines. There are no extra slop-pails, and consequently the number of latrine pails is insufficient. The Superintendent has promised this shall be remedied at once.

Night soil is carted to suitable pits 1,000 yards from camp. Dry rubbish is deposited in trenches 15 feet deep round the camp, and is well covered in.

Wet slops are thrown into the same trenches.

The Commission do not consider that it is a satisfactory plan to mix wet and dry rubbish in this manner.

The camp is scavenged by a gang of boys (unpaid) with wheelbarrows, and the surface is most beautifully clean.

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* This excellent Superintendent died about a month after our visit, of acute pneumonia, caught of the children in the hospital. His funeral was attended by a large concourse of the camp people, by whom he was greatly beloved.

3. *Housing.*—The camp is well laid out. It is divided into two sections, and consists of bell tents and Boer tents. The streets are 20 yards wide, and tents 12 yards from pole to pole. The surface soil is black, with pot-clay beneath it.

The trenching is good.

Two-roomed cottages of sun-dried brick are being built. The Superintendent should provide for better ventilation in them. In tents the flap-raising rule is not strictly enforced.

4. *Rations.*—Meat is issued daily from 6 to 8 a.m. The butchery shelter is extremely clean and well kept. The grocery rations are issued on Friday and Saturday to each section of the camp. Issuing takes from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m., with an interval for dinner. Although the Superintendent seems satisfied, the Commission thinks the issuing should be done more rapidly, in order to ensure children not being kept from school to fetch rations. There has been the usual trouble about thin meat.

5. *Kitchens.*—No public ovens, but two 40-gallon tanks with boiled water are constantly in use.

6. *Fuel.*—There is no lack of fuel; 4 lbs. coal per head per week issued on Monday and Wednesday. No definite ration of wood. Four or five wagon loads per day are fetched by inmates (unpaid), who go out under escort using their own transport.

7. *Slaughter-places.*—Meat supplied by contractor in the village.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—About one-third of the tents are without bedsteads. The Superintendent does not seem alive to the necessity of urging the people to make themselves "kartels." Wood and labour being available, there should be no great difficulty in getting them made. 623 blankets have been given out since June.

9. *Clothing.*—110*l.* of Government clothing has been issued; 90 cases of all sorts of goods from the Cape Town Committee (Mr. Schultz) have also been distributed. New-comers in camp are badly off, and the Superintendent is preparing a fresh indent for Government clothing.

10. *Shops.*—There are five shops, fairly well stocked.

11. *Hospital.*—Staff: Dr. Martinius (P.M.O.), Dr. Polson, Dr. Arnold, Dr. Barrett (lines doctor), and a dispenser. Hospital matron, Miss McBride; and three sisters; 40 local assistants, and the necessary servants.

Miss Jong, formerly hospital matron, died of dysentery on the day of the Commission's visit, Miss McBride arriving the same day to replace her. Another nurse from Kroonstad was also expected to arrive immediately.

The searching out of cases of sickness in the lines is very inefficiently done. Hardly a day passed during the month of October in which some person did not die in the lines, whose iliness had never been reported to the doctor in charge.

Dr. Barrett, who has only been a fortnight at Brandfort, is an efficient doctor, and is anxious to get all serious cases when discovered sent into hospital. The hospital consists of 18 marquees (160 beds), and of an isolation camp for diphtheria. Dr. Martinius (P.M.O.) has five marquees in hospital; the nursing in them is badly done, tables dirty, floors in very bad condition. Dr. Martinius also sees the out-patients daily, from 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m., having about 20 cases.

Dr. Polson is in charge of nine marquees. In two of these a couple of more than suspicious scarlet fever cases were discovered among the measles patients, on the day of the Commission's visit. On this same day Dr. Polson discharged two patients with temperatures, one of whom died the following night in the tents.

Several charts were also seen belonging to patients who had likewise been discharged with temperatures.

The medical comforts book in charge of the housekeeper showed that Dr. Polson had frequently signed for articles for use in his own house.

Dr. Arnold has charge of four marquees and the diphtheria camp of nine tents. These latter are too near the general hospital, and the patients and

contacts are all kept in the same bell tent (one for each family), a very bad arrangement. The dispensary is well stocked, and the supply of medical comforts sufficient, although on the date of our visit Brand's essence of beef and cod liver oil had run out, owing to the great demand for them.

The hospital kitchen is merely a stove in the open with a corrugated iron screen on three sides, and no roof.

A Soyer boiler is in use for boiling patients' drinking water.

On date of visit there were 151 cases in hospital, a large proportion being of a very serious nature. The nursing is totally inadequate, and hens saunter into the hospital marquees freely, with results which might be expected.

There are 10 diphtheria patients with their families in the 9 tents, and total number of cases has been about 50.

There are 4 enteric cases (2 only suspicious) in hospital at present. There have been 60 cases during the last four months. The housekeeper issues medical comforts on receipt of order signed by the doctor, and enters them in a book.

The hospital drinking water is good. The hospital latrines are two in number, of one seat each. The door consists of a piece of old canvas which does not screen the entrance. Night slops are emptied into pails and taken to an uncovered trench beyond the hospital enclosure where they were seen covered with flies, and from whence they were fetched by the sanitary cart.

Now that the new marquees have been put up, the large tent for wet and dry rubbish is too near the hospital.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Mrs. Sullivan (inmate of camp) is to have charge of the soup kitchen when the boilers arrive, meanwhile she distributes the emergency milk ration for infants under three years, which was especially arranged for by the Commission in view of the alarming mortality and weakly condition of the children in camp.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. Pinaar.
The distribution of clothing is chiefly in his hands.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—There had been trouble at one time with the military, and some undesirable women had been sent away.

15. *School.*—The number on the register was 400. The number attending on day of visit was 346. The school consists of two canvas shelters very much overcrowded. Children can only attend in relays, with the result that no child (except 6 girls in Standard IV.) gets over two hours schooling a day. The school equipment is extremely scanty, and there are hardly any seats. One large extra brick shelter is being built. This, however, will not give sufficient extra accommodation. The school age ranges from 5 to 17 years. Mr. Walters, head master, has two male and two female assistants, like himself inmates of the camp. The teaching was lively, but seemed superficial. Writing was not taught, except in Standard IV. "No desks "or copying books" was Mr. Walter's explanation for this state of things. More teachers are badly wanted.

16. *Employments.*—There are 20 builders, 10 carpenters, and 6 shoemakers, to whom leather is supplied, and who sell boots at 1*s.* 6*d.* a pair. A garden of two acres is being made.

An expert from Bloemfontein had taught a refugee lad to work a diamond drill, and the latter is now being sent to Heilbron Camp to work one there.

The sanitary cart was made out of an old Scotch cart in camp, and the Superintendent was certain that if he had a forge, he could start a smithy.

All this labour is unpaid, and Mr. Jacob said, "They work with a good "will." He now and then rewards them with a pair of boots, or some small trifle or privilege.

17. *Orphans* are taken by relations.

18. *Local Committees.*—One had existed for a short time in the village for the distribution of clothing.

19. *Return of Ages of those who have Died.*—

Month.	Under 1 Year.	1 to 5 Years.	5 to 12 Years.	12 to 20 Years.	Over 20 Years.	Totals.
March	—	2	—	—	2	4
April	—	1	1	2	1	5
May	2	2	—	—	3	7
June	1	3	1	3	3	11
July	2	2	3	—	6	13
August	4	5	4	1	8	22
September	18	70	18	8	24	138
October to 27th	43	179	80	19	16	337
TOTAL	70	264	107	33	63	537

20. *Servants* are allowed. They do not sleep in camp, and are not rationed.

21. The mortuary was in good order. Coffins are made in camp, and corpses are properly shrouded. The cemetery is well kept.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The Commission feel that the hospital work is thoroughly disorganised and that the terrible epidemic in camp has not been properly grappled with. Dr. Barrett and the sisters have worked to the limit of their capacity.

An experienced hospital matron arrived during the visit of the Commission. She appears to be competent to carry out the necessary re-organisation of the nursing and to put it on a proper footing, but the Commission feel that in order to do so she will require strong support from the Superintendent and at headquarters.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The disorganisation of the hospital at Brandfort appears to us to call for immediate attention and action. We recommend :—

(1.) That a competent medical officer of weight and standing be sent at once to make a special report on the subject, and that while the present epidemic lasts, all possible help should be given to Brandfort in the supply of additional doctors and nurses.

(2.) The dismissal of Dr. Polson.

(3.) That five more marquees be supplied at once for the use of the hospital.

(4.) The patients and contact cases to be housed in separate tents in the diphtheria camp.

(5.) A boiler should be provided at once for enteric linen and a destructor for enteric stools.

(6.) A hut should be provided at once for disinfecting mattresses, &c.

(7.) That no hens or chickens be allowed in the hospital precincts.

(8.) Better latrine accommodation provided for the nursing staff.

(9.) That wet and dry refuse should not be mixed. Separate trenches should be dug for slop water.

(10.) The shallow dirty pools (used as receptacles for rubbish) near the new borehole should be filled in.

(11.) That suitable washing tables be erected near the spruit.

(12.) The provision of better school accommodation and increased supply of teachers and school appliances.

(13.) A forge for the proposed smithy.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, WINBURG, 29TH TO 30TH OCTOBER 1901.

The refugees for this district are located principally in a camp pitched on slightly sloping ground at the foot of a kopje about one quarter mile from the station; a small number called the "undesirables" are living in the town showyard, and a few families living in the town are rationed, coming by special pass into the camp. There appears to be practically no supervision of the last named, who are living in their own houses. The total population is 3,153:—

—	Men.	Women.	Children.
Camp - - - -	415	952	1,677
Town - - -	14	36	59
	429	988	1,736 = 3,153

The camp is divided into Camp 1 and Camp 2 and is intersected by various furrows and drains and one or two raised footpaths. The ground is black earth, and this is one of the reasons for considering it an undesirable site. The camp has neither a smart nor tidy appearance; the tents are not regularly laid out and there is no order as to the grouping together of marquees, bell tents, shelters, houses, &c., not to mention one or two instances where the tent has been pitched quite outside "because the owner thought the air better and had obtained permission."

Camp 1 was started in January 1901.

Camp 2 the first week in July, when a large number of people were sent from Bloemfontein, who brought with them measles and other diseases into a camp which up to that time had been healthy. The authorities are aware that from the point of view of water, sanitation and nature of soil the site is not good, but for military reasons it is difficult to find another site in the place.

The showyard is in a much healthier position, but would be far too small for a camp site. It is proposed to remove its present occupants back to camp and use the showground for a convalescent camp. The Superintendent, Mr. Clarke, was leaving on the day of our arrival, and the camp had just been taken over by Mr. Alexander, formerly Assistant Superintendent at Norvals Pont. We were very glad a man had been sent from such a good training school, as there is much to be set right in this camp, both as regards the management of the people, the arrangement of rations and difficulty of water supply.

1. *Water Supply.*—At Winburg, as at Heilbron, the water supply is perhaps *the* question of the camp. At Winburg also it is derived from two sources:—

1*st Source.*—The town fountain, abundant, clear and said to be good. It is thoroughly covered and is used by town, military, and refugee camp.

2*nd Source.*—A small weak spring some distance from the camp in a kloof. This is also clear and said to be good. It is used at present both for drinking water and washing clothes.

From the town fountain the water is pumped by two pumps into water carts. One of these pumps is for the use of the camp, and was out of order at the time of the Commission's visit. As this pump is not a good one, and its going out of order entails scarcity of water in the camp, it should be replaced by one that is better and more powerful.

There were 12 water-carts, 6 large and 6 small, average capacity of 150 gallons per cart. These carts are said to go seven times a day to the fountain. Now this should give close on four gallons per head per day for every soul in camp; if this had been a reality it would have been an unusually liberal supply. In practice this quantity does not seem to be reached. Water was far from plentiful during the Commission's visit from the break-down of the pump, and therefore the camp people were taking water from the weak spring in the kloof, which should have been reserved for washing clothes, and using very dirty stagnant pools for washing their clothes in.

This small fountain in the kloof has had a pipe put in, and is always running either into the pails of the people or down the muddy bank into a small and very dirty dam where people were washing clothes and from which there was no outlet.

With a good pump and 12 water-carts, the people should not be allowed to draw from this fountain, but all the water should be conducted by pipe into this dam, which, after thoroughly cleaning, should have a proper pipe and plug fixed in the dam wall so that at stated times the water could be run off. The slope is considerable and drainage easy. The women should not be allowed to wash in the dam, but should wash just below it, and a policeman should be stationed there to prevent fouling of the dam. Unless the water can be brought by pipe the whole way to a good site for a dam just outside the camp, it is better where it is.

There are no bath-houses.

A borehole is being made, and was at a standstill while the Commission was at Winburg; the work seems to have been going on for a long time without any result.

2. *Sanitation.—Disposal of Rubbish.—Pail System.* — The latrines are attended to by the town contractors, but two men paid by the people themselves keep the pails and seats disinfected and clean.

Camp.—There are nine large latrines, and one for the hospital in good order; five latrines are for women and children, four latrines with 54 latrine and 27 other buckets are for men.

Showyard.—Two large latrines with 46 pails between them. One of these is for men, one for women.

There are a large number of new pails not in use in this camp, so that there is no reason for any latrine being in an insanitary condition. There is no special provision for children, and the large women's latrines should have more partitions.

Removal of Rubbish.—Proper receptacles are now being provided through the camp, and the rubbish is removed by wagon and two Scotch carts to rubbish heaps outside the camp every day. There are corporals over every 39 tents who see to everything being removed, and a fatigue party of 12 men are told off every day to clean up the camp and remove all dust heaps. The ultimate dust heap is rather near the camp and is not covered with earth. The site is chosen by the military, and the camp has to conform to their requirments.

3. *Housing.*—The people in the camp are housed in 54 bucksail houses 4 marquées, and one or two brick houses, 525 bell tents. The showyard has 48 huts. We were not able to get returns of the average number in a tent the maximum number in the huts was 8.

The Superintendent intends digging more trenches before the wet season The people said that up to the present, unless the tents themselves leaked the ground inside was dry, but very little rain was needed to make the outside ground deep mud.

There is a standing order that flaps of tents are to be up from 9.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. The flaps were up in a very fair proportion of cases at the date of our visit. The tents looked fairly tidy, but the good effect of the camp was spoilt by the endless little dirt heaps.

4. *Rations.*—There are two small houses for serving rations. Grocery rations are issued weekly, meat every other day. The people are supposed to come up in "blocks," and if they are late must wait until the others have been

served. Fresh meat is supplied for five days, and a tinned meat ration for two days weekly.

The rationing is not well done, the grocery and meat ration for 1,600 people taking a whole day to ration. Mr. Alexander means to alter the system, which need not therefore be further described. The grocery was on the usual O.R.C. scale, with soap half-cake per head per week. The average weight of sheep here was better than we had found elsewhere.

The following is the weight of some of the sheep on the first day of our visit :—

4 sheep, 88 lbs.	4 sheep, 99 lbs.	4 sheep, 92 lbs.	4 sheep, 99 lbs.
4 „ 96 „	4 „ 104 „	4 „ 98 „	4 „ 105 „

and yet the people grumbled more about food, and specially meat, than at any other place. The segregation camp had refused their meat on one occasion ; it was taken back to the contractor and sold at once in the town. The ration house in the segregation camp was very dirty and ill-kept. The meat looked good and fresh, and was supplied by a contractor in the town. The rice ration is much appreciated.

5. *Kitchens.*—No public kitchens or boilers, and the private ovens, of every shape and size, were allowed to be made anywhere instead of in proper lines.

6. *Fuel.*—Both wood and coal are difficult to get, especially the former, as the Boers are so near; until a short time ago boys under 12 were allowed out, but this has been stopped. Coal is issued (1 lb. per head per day only) weekly. The people need more fuel.

7. *Slaughter-place.* — None. The meat is delivered from contractor. There is no lack of meat at Winburg for civilians or refugees.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The Assistant Superintendent said that most tents had at least one kartel, and this seems to be correct. The Superintendent had been advised to send an indent to Bloemfontein for what wood he required for making kartels, and several beds had been supplied already. No waterproof sheets had been supplied, but two blankets each had been issued to those who had none.

9. *Clothing.*—Clothing had been received from the Government and also from Mr. Schultz's committee at Cape Town, and distributed by a committee consisting of the Commandant, Mr. Marquand, Mr. Mitchel, Lieutenant Cloete (magistrate) ; another indent to Bloemfontein has just been sent for more clothing. The clothing which was sent by the Netherlands Committee was distributed by Miss Bakkes, hospital matron. The following Government clothing has been distributed :—

830 yards flannelette.	100 yards cottonade.
40 men's shirts.	16 men's trousers.
8 men's jackets.	6 doz. men's socks.
8 doz. women's hose.	6 doz. children's hose
8 doz. girls' hose.	250 yards lining.
	12 doz. reels cotton.

The second consignment consisted of 50 pieces of flannelette.

10. *Shops.*—There are three storekeepers. The prices are regulated from Bloemfontein, and it is very difficult for them to get up any stores ; one man said it would be much easier but for the order that all indents must be sent to Bloemfontein. They all said the buying power was greater than they could supply. The shops did not look so empty as they did at Heilbron, but there were practically no foodstuffs and a limited supply of soft goods. The people want candles, jam, sardines, compressed vegetables, butter and fat. Four trucks are allowed for camp and town, less than a truck load comes into camp, and refugees can only buy foodstuffs in town by order of the magistrate.

11. *Hospital.*—

Medical Staff.—Dr. Schneage, P.M.O., district surgeon;
Dr. Molesworth (one of the doctors specially brought from England for Concentration Camps), lives and works in the camp.

Nursing Staff.—Two Sisters (one a good matron from Holland).
Three Boer assistants, one for night, two for day.
Two male orderlies for men's wards and servants.
One dispenser with two unpaid assistants.
One washerwoman, coloured.

The Hospital itself consists of two frame houses which make excellent wards, two marquees and one bell tent. These contain 36 beds and they were almost full before we left. The frame houses are lined and one has a verandah with comfortable cane chairs. One frame house is the measles ward, the other is the general ward; each contains 13 beds. One marquee is used for the male ward with eight beds; the other is used for out-patients. The bell tent has two beds and is used for isolation cases. The dispensary, Sisters' mess room, and hospital kitchen are all in an iron house, but the Sisters sleep in bell tents. The Nurses are better fed here than in any Orange River Colony Camp, as they get Field Force rations. The wards are well kept and the patients well cared for. Sister Bakkes (matron) knows her work and is deservedly trusted by the doctors. There is a store for medical comforts close to hospital and dispensary and these are given out by doctors' orders.

Sister Bakkes has in addition a store of medical comforts, including night dresses brought from Holland, which she distributes as required.

Twenty-six bottles of cows' milk is the maximum quantity supplied to the hospital per day. The water is brought by water-cart and is filtered, but not boiled.

The enteric and other infectious sheets and clothes are steeped in 1 in 20 carbolic for 24 hours and then dried, and when dry sent to the wash. Unfortunately the hospital, originally pitched outside the camp, has been gradually surrounded by the ever-increasing number of tents and should now be moved to a clear space at the top of the camp and a fence placed round it.

The verandah and chairs for convalescents are a decided improvement. Unless there is a marked change for the better in the health of the camp this month, the hospital will need more marquees and another trained nurse.

The Out-patient Department.—Out-patients are seen by one of the doctors every morning in the marquee set apart for them, and average 30 to 40 per day.

The sick in lines are also seen by one of the doctors every morning; he has a list of sick handed to him before starting. Cases in lines, if urgent, are also seen in the afternoon. If there is any cows' milk to spare it is given to sick children in tents.

Measles' Camp.—Measles, it is reported, were introduced from Bloemfontein in July, and although an attempt has been made at isolation, the disease has spread over the whole camp. In the isolated portion there are two attendants; beds and comforts are supplied, and Sister Bakkes also considers it as under her charge.

There is also a small hospital in a brick house in connection with the Segregation camp in town. This has two attendants; it was neat and clean, and is looked after by the P.M.O. Dr. Molesworth looks after the camp hospital, and the two doctors take alternate weeks of measles camp and out-patients or lines. The doctors seem to work cordially together and therefore the work goes smoothly. Deaths for five months in camp:—

June, 11.
July, 13. Measles introduced.
August, 19.
September, 30.
October, 65.

There is very little enteric fever at present in camp; only three or four cases in hospital.

12. *Camp Matron.*—There is none at present; the Superintendent has permission to appoint one as soon as four Soyer's stoves indented for arrive.

13. *Resident Minister.*—The resident minister left last month to return to Cape Town. Mr. Spratt of Senekal, not ordained, a former prisoner at Green Point and now residing in camp, had obtained leave to hold service. He said honestly he was an Africander, but did not bring his politics to church. He seemed to have a good system of visiting, a certain number of the ladies in camp taking each a line of tents, and among other things encouraging the children to go to Sunday school. He himself took classes, and spoke with much gratitude of the religious liberty allowed in camp.

Discipline, &c.—There have been over 180 prisoners of war returned to this camp, and they have been the cause of most of the trouble in this respect. Four of them have deserted to rejoin commando. Seven would not work, and were sentenced to three months' hard labour. Some have been sent to Bloemfontein, and some sent to the showyard, where, being housed for the most in the houses on good high ground, and with much less supervision than could be exercised in the camp, they are "enjoying themselves too much," and the Superintendent intends to move them down to the camp. If they are unruly they will be sent without further delay out of the country.

Education.—The arrangements in every way are inadequate. There is one small school shelter only, which ought not to be nearly large enough for the children who could attend. There is practically no equipment beyond a few forms, slates, one blackboard, four coloured pictures; no desks, no writing books. The school has been started since July. The former master had been old and the school unpopular; the new master, Mr. Haupt, has just arrived. He said there were 300 names on the books, and about 200 attended; the school hours from 8 to 1. Standard III. was the highest. He has three assistant teachers; one speaks English well, the others fairly. We met the inspector, Mr. Kewley, who was most interested and enthusiastic in his work. His plan is to teach almost entirely through the teacher and the blackboard, and not by book, and to have plenty of pictures to interest the children and make them talk about them in English. In order to show the system the first assistant gave a lesson on a picture card. She made the children describe the different scenes and write their answers, often spelling the words wrongly to catch the children who were most bright in finding out mistakes, and finally made them copy the whole on their slates. This school is working under great difficulties for lack of material, and should be helped if possible.

16. *Occupations.*—Brickmaking, carpentering, shoemaking.

17. *Orphans.*—These have always been taken by their friends and relatious.

18. *Local Committee.*—There is a ladies' committee in camp consisting of thirty ladies, who on our arrival asked to see us. The meeting was interesting, for all were willing to talk, and for the most part reasonably and to the point. Towards the end, however, they became at variance with one another on the subject of the trustworthiness of the Dutch matron, and most of them said, "We want the English to distribute things." (The same thing was repeated by one of the principal men in the camp, who said, "We would "rather have an Englishman at the head of all departments in the camp.") There was one woman who had been rather silent at the meeting, and when we were alone afterwards she said, "I am English and my husband has never "fought for the Boers. I only wish to say how truly thankful I should be to "know that my two sisters, who are at the coast, and loyal refugees, are "being as well treated as we are here."

Return of Ages of those who have Died.

Months.	Ages of those who have died.					
	Under 1 Year.	1 Year to 5 Years.	5 Years to 12 Years.	12 Years to 20 Years.	20 Years and over.	Total.
1901.						
April - - -	—	2	2	1	2	7
May - - - -	3	3	3	1	3	13
June - - -	1	4	1	—	5	11
July - - - -	6	3	3	—	1	13
August - -	7	2	4	1	5	19
September - - -	6	11	4	4	5	30
October - -	18	29	10	3	10	70
TOTALS - -	41	54	27	10	31	163

How many Applications for Leave to go to Friends?—Six only have been made. Applications to go to friends are rare, and in those cases where leave has been granted the applicants have shortly asked to come back.

Compare Civilian Diet.—The civilian population is not well fed, food scarce, and there are no fresh vegetables.

Native servants are allowed, but not rationed. The women sleep in camp.

Treatment of the Dead.—There is a mortuary tent with trestle tables, and the dead are properly shrouded. The coffins are made in the town, 3*l.* allowed for adult, 1*l.* 10*s.* allowed for child. The dead are buried in the new town cemetery, which is at a proper distance from both town and camp. The graves are dug deep, and the whole place seems well cared for.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) Erect a new strong pump in place of the present inefficient one at the town spring as soon as possible, and issue the water as a ration to ensure a fair supply for the whole camp.

(2.) Construct a proper dam below the kloof fountain, which should be kept exclusively for washing purposes, the women taking the water out of the dam and washing below, and not in it as at present.

(3.) Boilers for boiling drinking water and disinfecting enteric sheets should be provided without delay.

(4.) Erect some partitions in women's latrines.

(5.) Arrange for authorised dust heaps with kopje stones or corrugated iron walls at certain parts of the camp. These should be emptied daily. The camp is very untidy at present.

(6.) The system of issuing rations to be improved.

(7.) The ration of coal to be increased to 2 lbs. per head per day in view of the fact that wood is so scarce, and for the same reason public ovens for baking bread to be built without delay.

(8.) A sod or brick hut to be made for a disinfecting room for mattresses and clothes, &c.

(9.) The hospital to be removed to higher ground and the accommodation to be increased.

(10.) Increased accommodation and equipment to be provided as soon as possible for the school, and two more assistant teachers. This is very urgent.

(11.) A camp garden to be started as soon as possible, the soil at hand being most suitable.

(12.) Coffins to be made in camp. It seems preposterous to pay from 30*s.* to 3*l.* for these when they could be produced for so much less in camp.

REPORT ON HEILBRON, 22ND OCTOBER 1901.

This little town, situated at the terminus of a branch line of railway, was visited by the Commission on October 22nd. The arrangements were found to differ in many respects from all the other places previously visited, inasmuch as the number of people housed in the town exceeded by over 100 those accommodated in tents in the camp, and therefore the town and not the camp was for all purposes the "Headquarters." The Boer refugees were first located in the town in November 1900, the camp was not started until the following February. The respective numbers on the date of the visit of the Commission were:—

——	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
Town - - -	240	466	949	1,655
Camp - - -	150	481	893	1,524
				3,179

The camp, which is about half a mile from Heilbron station, is pitched on ground which falls away slightly in two directions It is divided into Camps A and B by a wide roadway, and each camp is further divided into lines at every fifth row of tents by a succession of similar wide roads. The whole camp is marked out with white stones which gives it a smart and orderly appearance. Wide furrows are dug round three sides of the camp to carry off the water, and smaller drains are cut at each section, as the fall is not very good. We saw the camp after several hours of heavy rain: there was no standing water, but the tent floors were in many instances very damp.

The present Superintendent was appointed in May. He resides and has his office in town. The greater part of the supervision of the camp is in the hands of his Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Smith.

1. *Water Supply.*—Water for drinking and washing is brought from a good fountain in town by four water carts. This, with the present poor transport, hardly gives one gallon per head per day, and when the water for the hospital washing is deducted, not even that.

This town fountain is more than a mile away, and although it was stated to be thoroughly enclosed and built in by the military, a hole has been carelessly left close to the ground through which dirt and dust can reach the water; this is especially the case at present, with dust storms and heavy rains following each other in rapid succession, and crowds of human beings and animals pressing round the well. The water looks clear and good, but we feel it is not sufficiently protected from contamination. The same water is used by the refugees in the town, who draw for themselves.

Bath-houses.—There are none.

Washing Clothes.—Water for this purpose is taken from a fountain not far from camp. As the supply from this fountain is not ample, the women are not allowed to wash in it, but water is drawn by them in buckets. A second wash bench should be put here. A policeman is wanted to keep the children away and help the women to get water. The fountain also needs a cleaning out. This fountain is far from an ideal wash place, but it is the best that can be provided. The spruit is at some distance and very dirty.

One of the great difficulties in Heilbron Camp is the scarcity of water for cooking, personal use, clothes washing.

2. *Sanitation.*—The paid system has been adopted. All latrine pails and slops are emptied by a contractor living in town.

The women's latrines are very unsuitable, having no proper seats; they can hardly be used by children, hence the necessity for the slop buckets and using utensils in the tents. The latrine pattern is said to have come from Bloemfontein. Although quite suitable for men, it is not decent, and quite

unsuitable for women and children. In town there are a number of small latrines.

One head corporal and four men under him look after water and sanitation generally in camp. One sanitary policeman looks after town sanitation.

Removal of Rubbish.—From Camp A, is removed in wheelbarrows to an old quarry above the camp. From Camp B, it is removed in Scotch carts a little distance from camp, and deposited on the ground. From town, by town authorities, and deposited in another place. The locality of depositing places is determined by the military. No earth is thrown in to cover ashes, and high winds prevail. Ash receptacles are said to be used; we saw many little heaps awaiting removal. Slop-water, it is to be feared, is thrown on the ground.

3. *Housing.*—Burgher families in the town are housed in every conceivable kind of dwelling, from a church vestry, hotel, and store, to a blacksmith's forge, and what must have been intended as a refuge for Kaffirs or pigs. Many are badly ventilated, and in the case of a large store, as many as eight families were living without the slightest attempt of any curtain or screen for division. There is also decided overcrowding. Some of the families are former residents, others have been brought in from Frankfort and the district.

In the camp there are 212 bell-tents, 26 marquees (exclusive of hospital), one canvas shelter for church and school—seven occupants is the limit for all bell tents; as a rule there are only four, or at most five in each.

The flaps of the tents (wind and weather permitting) are ordered up daily from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and on the date of our visit this order was well carried out. The tents were exceptionally clean with well-brushed floors.

4. *Rations.*—What was formerly a store has been adopted for the rationing of the people in town. A copy of the ration scale hangs up in the store for reference. A bell is rung before serving, and the people come in good time. In fifteen minutes 24 families were served; there was not the slightest muddle or hurry. It was an excellent system well carried out. The rations in camp are served from a marquee. Grocery rationing days for town are Tuesdays and Saturdays; for camp Thursdays and Fridays, in the morning. Meat is issued daily, and soap fortnightly. The same issuer serves to the town and camp.

The civilian population have had no fresh meat for over two months, and the contractor had just notified that he had fresh meat for five more days, only, for the refugees. Up to this date on only 12 separate occasions has tinned meat been served out to the camp; meat has been in poor condition, but sound. The people did not complain of lack of anything except water. No vegetables are issued, except to the hospital; they are very scarce and dear.

5. *Kitchens.*—There are no public kitchens or boilers for either town or camp. In the latter the private ovens are built in specified places, and therefore do not look untidy.

6. *Fuel.*—There is no wood. The people in the town have 1 lb. of coal per head per day; and it is expected that they should supplement this with mist. In the camp the ration is 2 lbs. per head, as it is more difficult there to get mist.

7. *Slaughter-place.*—This is not under the control of Superintendent, but belongs to the contractor, and is in a very dirty condition, offal lying on the ground.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—Some of the people in the town had good iron bedsteads, and the majority some kind of bed-frame and fair bedding, but in the camp there was great dearth of any kind of bedsteads. Seven kartels had been made from wood bought in the town by camp carpenters, who received 1*s.* 6*d.* for each. The Superintendent has been advised that scantling for kartels is coming up. He has issued no waterproof sheets.

9. *Clothing.*—The people in both town and camp appear to be very fairly clad. Since May Mr. Wagner has issued from Government supplies 1,800 blankets, 450 pairs of boots, 75 pairs of men's boots, 725 pairs of children's boots, 450 hose, 650 children's hose, 400 lbs. sole leather, 900 yards calico, 2,200 yards flannelette, 2,250 yards dress material, 400 boys' shirts, 300 cord trousers, 500 yards boys' clothing, and more are on order. Five hundred yards of material for clothing have also been distributed from the Netherlands Fund, per Mr. Schultz, from Cape Town, as well as 50*l.* worth of clothing from Mr. de Kock. Mr. Wagner has also from two sources made 181*l.*, which he has used for clothing destitute people, viz., 20*l.* from royalty on store, and 161*l.* for the skinning of animals for the Government.

10. *Stores.*—All the shops in town are very poorly supplied. The store in camp is run by a man called Berber; the prices are regulated by the Provost Marshal. The goods are bought locally, and there was, in very small quantities, soap, jam, syrup, fruit, books, &c. No Dutch medicines are allowed to be sold in camp, but with 20 passes per day to town this should cause no inconvenience.

11. *Hospitals.*—Medical and nursing staffs. Two hospitals, one in town, which was up to present date the only one for town and camp: the second in camp had been open for two days.

Staff.—Town.

Dr. Tregaskis, P.M.O. district surgeon.
„ Everett Clayton (Heilbron doctor).
„ Hayden, from Plague Service, Cape Town.

One trained nurse and four Boer girl servants, and the necessary staff of servants.

Staff.—Camp.

Dr. Tregaskis, P.M.O. and health officer.
Dr. Spong, hospital and camp.
One trained nurse.
Five Boer girls.
One Boer orderly and servants.

All the doctors take out-patients at specified places and hours. Dr. Tregaskis takes charge of most of the town hospital, and has the general oversight of medical and sanitary matters in town and camp. Dr. Hayden takes the principal part of the visiting in town, and Dr. Clayton does a certain share, both of out-patient work and visiting.

Measles, which have almost died out in camp, are rampant in the town, and the Commission have much pleasure in stating that everything which human skill and care could do was being done for the patients. In spite of being in houses the death-rate was very heavy, 10 dying on one of the nights of the Commission's visit. Though some of the houses were comfortable, others were miserable sheds or stables, and one hovel was surely only meant for a pig or perhaps some poor native, and yet a young girl, dangerously ill, lay in it; and yet the people prefer these wretched places to living in tents. The epidemic had been so sudden and so large that it had been impossible to take the patients into hospital. Heilbron had been very healthy until some hundreds of measles-infected people had been sent from Kroonstad. There is barely language too strong to express our opinion of the sending of a mass of disease to a healthy camp; but the cemetery at Heilbron tells the price paid in human lives for the terrible mistake.

The town hospital is an old building and has only one fanlight opening, and when the doors are shut at night the wards cannot be well aired. At the date of our visit there were two wards, one for men and one for women, only separated by the thinly curtained archway. The backroom cleared to make into a men's ward is not suitable for this purpose, lacking starlight and air. There was no separate latrine for the nurses. The washing and disinfecting of enteric sheets was done in the garden and all the dirty water

ran into a trench. There are 23 beds and 17 patients in the hospital. Structural defects have been already referred to; but the wards were brightly decorated with beautiful pots of fern, and the patients were well cared for.

In the camp enteric fever has broken out. Four marquees have been put up with six stretchers in each and they were at once filled. More marquees are fortunately to be had and will be erected. The trained nurse is most energetic, but will need more trained help.

There were two bell tents with diphtheria, well looked after by relations, under the Sister, and tents and marquees had been erected for the staff as mess and sleeping rooms; there was also a kitchen. The enteric sheets are to be boiled and disinfected before being washed. Baths for disinfecting had been requisitioned and a boiler was being erected.

No cows' milk and very few vegetables are obtainable.

From the great demand during the epidemic of measles the supply of Ideal milk was running short.

Measles had burnt itself out in camp, but the enteric outbreak, will, it is feared, be serious. There were 200 cases last year in Heilbron, and from the manner in which enteric patients have been distributed over the town, it is probable that the place has been poisoned.

12. *Camp Matron.*—There is no matron in town or camp; when two Soyer stoves arrive, Mr. Wagner proposes making a Mrs. Smit matron for the camp at the rate of 50*l.* a year—to be responsible for the soup kitchen—she having proved herself useful at the time of the measles epidemic. A tent-to-tent inspection is made daily by the corporals, and by the doctor and Superintendent from time to time.

13. *Ministers.*—None are resident in town or camp; one comes from Bloemfontein occasionally and another is shortly expected. There is a large church in the town. Mr. de Beers conducts funerals, and services are held in the school house in camp.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Unruly men are handed over to the Provost Marshal. "Ladies are addressed kindly and always amend." There have been troublesome girls from time to time, on the question of morals; one especially bad one was sent away and others moved from Camp B to A, where they can easily be supervised—six girls have been moved.

15. *Education.*—No school was sitting in either town or camp and the head master was away. In the town there were two fairly suitable buildings with some good forms and desks, but there was apparently a lack of all other school appliances, and there was an air of untidiness and neglect about the whole place. In the large room a family with measles was taking refuge from the bad weather of the preceding night. Mr. Wilson, one of his assistants, lived in the camp; he spoke English well, had taught previously in Bloemfontein. He said the school was started in May and had been closed for about three weeks in consequence of the sickness and also for holidays. In the camp a shelter and two marquees were provided, there were no desks and only a very few forms; scarcely any other equipments were to be seen.

Both places were untidy and dirty; one especially was being used as a latrine, and in the other animals had taken shelter from the storm of the night before. The head master has the supervision of the school in camp as well as the school in town; he was said to come down once a week only. Two of the camp teachers have just resigned, which leaves only one master for the whole school. He is a Dutchman and said he had been teaching for 10 years. As far as one could judge the school appeared to be one neglected and unsatisfactory.

16. *Occupations.*—Carpentering and gardening are carried on in town, and it is hoped to make a camp garden immediately. Mr. Wagner has no material or he would start shoemaking and carpentering.

17. *Orphans.*—These have always been taken by their near relatives.

18. *Local Committee.*—The Superintendent spoke of an "Executive Committee" of town people who helped with nursing the sick, but we did not see any of their work. In town three English ladies had up to the time of

the measles epidemic investigated cases of destitution and recommended them to the notice of the Superintendent; they also went to the camp at one time for the same purpose. We could not learn from them that they had done anything else, and at present their labours were suspended.

19. *Return of Ages of those who have Died.*—

——	Under 1.	1 to 5 Years.	5 to 15 Years.	Over 15.	Total.
July - - -	3	4	2	11	20
August - - -	3	5	4	13	25
September - -	28	56	38	29	151
October to 23rd - -	20	73	39	26	158
TOTAL - -	54	138	83	79	354

20. *Application to go to Friends.*—None have applied to go to friends, but many to return to their farms.

21. *To compare Civilian Diet.*—Civilians seem very badly off for food compared with other places.

22. *Native Servants.*—Only a few are kept, and no arrangements are made for feeding them or providing them with sleeping accommodation.

23. *Mortuaries.*—Both town and camp had mortuaries, the one in the camp was untidy, and there were no trestles to lay bodies on—these are ordered. Bodies are decently shrouded and coffined. The carpenter is now paid by Government at the rate of 10*s.* for an adult, and 5*s.* for children's coffins.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) Boilers for all drinking water and two public ovens.

(2.) A soup kitchen.

(3.) A good camp matron with rules for guidance in her work.

(4.) Three good English teachers—one for the town and two for the school in camp.

(5.) As many more kartels as possible as soon as the wood arrives.

(6.) A cooking stove for doctors and Assistant Superintendent's mess.

(7.) Four more water carts for conveying drinking water.

(8.) Better food for nurses who have to work very hard, and some facilities given to doctors living in camp to get up vegetables and stores, such as railway men are provided with. Doctors and nurses to stamp out epidemics must be well fed.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, KROONSTAD, 24TH TO 28TH OCTOBER 1901.

This camp is about two miles out of the town. It has recently been shifted; the moving began in the first week in September. It stands on high down-like land; it has a sandy soil and a good slope. It was more completely covered with grass, owing no doubt to the recent rains, than any other camp we have seen. This must be a great comfort as tending to reduce the nuisance of dust. The present Superintendent, Mr. Thompson, had only been in charge six weeks. The census at the date of our visit was:—men, 551; women, 1,180; children, 1,991 = 3,722. A considerable number of men, husbands of women living in camp, have taken service with the British and are acting as guides. The families of these men were not living in a separate camp, and we did not hear or see signs of speciál friction between them and the other inmates of the camp. The camp is divided into six sections with a "corporal" (paid 1*s.* a day) in charge of each section. The corporal goes over the roll-call of all men in his section every morning, and reports all births,

deaths, and other matters of importance to the Superintendent between 8 and 9 o'clock a.m. The corporals are responsible for the cleanliness of the camp, which they clean up with the assistance of a scavenging party of Boer boys. The corporals also supply fatigue parties for any special work which may be required.

1. *Water Supply.*—Valsch River water, taken from town municipal reservoir 1¼ miles off, whence it is pumped into water carts which carry it to the camp for drinking purposes, 16 water carts averaging 70 gallons each doing three journeys a day. This gives a ration of a little under one gallon per head per day. The water is served out carefully, each cart being accompanied on its rounds through the camp by a boy with a slate, who records the names of those to whom it is served. The water is bad and muddy. It is boiled for the hospital, but not for the dispensary or the camp; it is not even filtered. A sample was taken from one of the water carts and brought by the Commission to Bloemfontein to be analysed. The trouble of transporting water is a constant source of worry to the Superintendent of this camp, and the quantity, it appears, owing to this difficulty, is very inadequate. The General Officer Commanding at Kroonstad has suggested that it should be brought into camp by pipes, and the Superintendent says that if he could get the pipes and the lines to be taken by them could be sketched out for him, he could quite easily supply all the labour free and undertake the supervision of the work; he considers that the initial expense of the piping would be soon more than counterbalanced by the subsequent saving in cost of daily transport.

Bath-houses.—Men bathe in the river. The women had a bath built for them, but it was too elaborate and was not used. It is now converted into a store.

Washing-place.—River Valsch, which flows at the bottom of the camp between very steep, earthy banks; the margin of the river, which is very foul, is not very suitable for washing, the banks being so steep and the edge of the water so muddy. In the dry season the water smells very badly. The Superintendent said that before the recent rain it had been like an open sewer.

N.B.—On the day of the Commission's visit a borehole had been begun about 300 yards from camp at a spot, however, close to one where a previous unsuccessful attempt had been made by the military to find water.

2. *Sanitation.*—The "pail system" carried out by camp, 19 latrines exclusive of those for staff and hospital, 100 pails for women and children, 52 pails for men and 27 night slop pails. With the exception of one of these latrines they were all well built of corrugated iron without roofs; the exception was one made of sailcloth and iron which was not decently protected and was unfit even for Kaffirs. This was meant, we were informed by Mr. Engelbrecht, the "sanitary man," for women. The pails in all were disgustingly foul, and the condition of the men's latrines especially extremely dirty, the seats of some dilapidated and the ground and walls dirty. Only a few were marked "For Women," "For Men."

The seats of those intended to be used by children were much too high, and we had ocular proof of the inconvenience and discomfort of this for the little children who could not use them properly.

There is a large sanitary cart (400 gallon tank) in charge of Mr. Engelbrecht, with two natives under him. The latrines are supposed to be emptied twice daily, and the night-soil carted to pits three-quarters of a mile away; but it is quite obvious that this is not done more than once a day in some cases. The pails are not properly cleaned or disinfected.

Latrine pits, deep and well dug, but three are quite open and uncovered; one is inadequately covered.

Rubbish.—Pits are being dug in convenient open spaces in the camp. Each section corporal collects a gang of little boys every morning, and these clear away the rubbish in bags. Several of the pits were too full, and the rubbish was being piled up in them, instead of being covered with earth when

still a few inches below the surface. The surface of the ground was very clean and well kept, but there were a number of very offensive rubbish heaps on the banks of the river. In spite of the commands of the Superintendent, it was clear the people were using the dongas and the sluits which run into the river as receptacles for all sorts of offensive refuse and as latrines, and the flies had settled in swarms on these, and the smells near the tents in this part of the camp were bad; children were playing about on rubbish heaps and picking up odds and ends.

3. *Housing.*—Mainly bell tents, not at all overcrowded. The average number to a bell tent was only three. There are also a good number of comfortable bucksail houses. Some of these have the end wall or gable built of stone or sun-dried brick; a few have both ends so built; this enables the bucksail, which is generally 30 by 30, to enclose a large area, and adds greatly to the size, comfort, and coolness of the houses, although some were found lacking in ventilation. These bucksail houses were inhabited by the "aristocracy" of the camp; many were very well furnished and were clean and well kept. We were informed that the doctor (Van de Wall) had condemned these houses as being in an unsanitary condition, too close to the banks of the river. We spoke to the Superintendent on the subject, and he promised that if it were considered necessary to remove them, every help and consideration would be shown to their inhabitants to get them put up again, and the walls of little kitchens erected, so as to put their owners to as little inconvenience as possible. No refugees are allowed to live in town, with one exception, Mr. Piet de Wet.

4. *Rations.*—There is one large issuing shed in the centre of the camp; each of the six sections is served separately; 30 issuers (unpaid) are employed, and issuing is done at three places simultaneously. The issue of meat takes about three-quarters of an hour, and is served daily; grocery is served every Saturday morning, and occupies from 6 a.m. till 12. The issuing shed was very clean and in good order when we saw it, very nearly at the end of the issue of meat and grocery. Rice is issued on Wednesdays. The quality of the stock here, as elsewhere, has been poor, but it has begun to improve. Sheep now average 22 lbs. in weight. The only complaint we received about rations was about the meat; the people said it was "feul" (dirty). We said the meat we had seen that morning was not feul, but fresh and good. This they admitted to be the case, but said it was better than what they had been receiving. They spoke of the meat having been magotty and dirty. It is possible the contractor may want some looking after.

The soap is not given as a regular ration, but one cake of Sunlight soap a head is given every fortnight.

There is no cow's milk to be had even for the hospital. We did not see anything but tinned milk in use among the ordinary inhabitants of Kroonstad. A few of the people in camp have goats, from which they obtain a little milk.

5. *Kitchens.*—All separate. There are a few bigger ovens which a group of families use in turn, but there are no public ovens fired by the camp administration.

6. *Fuel.*—Mainly wood. There are four wagons which go out with a fatigue party to cut wood in the surrounding country. These parties are under military control, and are not allowed to go without an escort.* There is also a small and irregular supply of coal, about three truck-loads a month. The supply of wood about in the camp looked good, and we did not receive any complaints on the subject of fuel.

7. *Slaughter-places.*—None. The meat is supplied dead by contractor.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The Superintendent said a large number, especially of the later arrivals, were without any sort of bedsteads. He had recently

* A wood-cutting party was captured by the Boers shortly after our visit. The men from the camp insisted on returning, but the transport animals were taken, and one young boy joined the commando.

received a note from headquarters, to say that he would shortly receive a truck load of poles to be made into kartels by people in camp. The Superintendent issued blankets when he was asked for them. The doctors had lately distributed about 16 to 20 hospital bedsteads (probably from the Scottish hospital recently broken up).

9. *Clothing.*—The general appearance of the people did not give evidence of destitution in respect of clothes. 110*l.* worth had been distributed during September. The Superintendent had found so much difficulty and so many complaints had been made about the distribution that he had now handed the whole matter over to the Rev. du Plessis, the Dutch clergyman. A private gift of 50*l.* had been made by Mr. Burks, a leading Kroonstad tradesman, to be used for clothing. A woman in camp had been selected to go round the tents and make a strict inquiry into the circumstances of those applying for clothes, and searching in the tent of a woman who was in rags, she found between the mattress and the bed, three unmade pieces of dress material, gifts previously issued. On being remonstrated with, the owner of these said she must save something to start upon when she went back to her farm.

10. *Stores.*—There are seven in this camp, not very well stocked. There was nothing like the complete and absolute absence of foodstuffs which characterised the stores at Vredefort Road and Winburg. The storekeepers complained of not being able to get stuff up, but we saw tinned fish, milk, Quaker oats, &c., besides photographs, silk fronts and other articles of luxury. An accordion was lying on the counter of one store, and in reply to inquiries the man said he sold plenty of them at 1*l.* 5*s.* each. The Superintendent issues passes to the camp people to go into Kroonstad, 10 for women (women whose husbands are on commando are not allowed to have passes), and five for men daily, but they are not allowed to buy food in town. Formerly when it was permitted, the townspeople complained that everything was bought up by the camp. Kroonstad town is very badly supplied with foodstuffs. The landlady of the hotel told us what great difficulty she had in getting food, and prices were very high, chickens 6*s.* each and so on.

11. *Hospital.*—The staff consists of—
Dr. van der Wall, P.M.O.,
Dr. More,
Dr. Gibson,
Dr. MacArthur,

a matron, Sister Strachan, and three trained nurses; 21 Boer girls as probationers; 16 male orderlies; 3 local assistants for the diphtheria tents; and the necessary servants. The cost of the hospital staff is 2,938*l.* a year.

The accommodation consists of 18 marquees (viz. 10 for women, 8 for men). The number of beds is 162; the number of patients on October 26th 1901, was 129. There are separate wards for enteric, measles, whooping cough, diphtheria, and for surgical cases. In-patients were provided with very good red flannel jackets, a gift which had been received from the Scottish hospital, at Kroonstad, when it was disbanded. There were 10 cases of diphtheria under treatment in hospital on the date of our visit. In the diphtheria marquee were two healthy babies with their sick mothers. An effort had been made to get these children taken care of in camp, and payment at the rate of 2*s.* a day per child had been offered, but not a soul would take them. The doctor in charge has treated them with anti-toxin, and so far they had not taken the disease. At the time of our visit a little boy was playing outside the diphtheria tents, in one of which his mother was lying ill. His grandmother in camp had charge of him, and deliberately sent him up every day to the tent where his mother was in order to rid herself of the trouble of looking after him. It should consequently cause little surprise that they spread. In the opinion of the Commission, the medical officer ought to insist that these children should not be brought up to the diphtheria tents. We are informed that Dr. van der Wall was the medical officer responsible

for the removal of patients actually known to be suffering from measles and pneumonia from Kroonstad to Heilbron, in the end of August, causing a serious outbreak of illness in a hitherto healthy camp.

Out-patients are seen by Dr. Van der Wall every day from 2.30 in a bell tent close to the dispensary. The sick in the lines are reported each day by the corporals and visited by those doctors in whose section of the camp the illness takes place.

For medical purposes the camp is divided into three parts, the three doctors not in charge of the hospital, each taking one-third of the camp. The charge of the hospital is taken by each of the four doctors for a month in rotation. This plan appears to combine many serious disadvantages; but more than one system has been tried at Kroonstad without finding one that works well. A fair division of work between the hospital and the lines ought to be arranged by the principal medical officer after consultation with his colleagues and the Superintendent.

Once a week the doctors then in charge of the lines visit every tent, and can order any case of illness into hospital. They have certainly been successful in this respect. There were fewer cases of serious illness in tents in this camp than in most we have seen.

There are two qualified dispensers who give out medical comforts and stimulants on doctor's orders. There is a most ample provision of these. The medicines, including those for diarrhœa and dysentery, are made up with unboiled and unfiltered and extremely impure water (already described under paragraph 1). There are no filters in the dispensary, but this would render boiling all the more necessary. The disinfecting of enteric sheets has now been begun; formerly nothing was done but to wash them in cold water. There are no boilers for enteric sheets, but there is a destructor for enteric stools. The boilers had been indented for, but had not arrived.

The water used for drinking purposes in hospital is boiled, but not filtered. The water is so thick and muddy that it should be filtered as well as boiled. The place where the hospital rubbish and slops were thrown was very dirty and untidy. On the other hand, the mortuary was one of the best we have seen, a stone house with stone slabs for the bodies.

The general accommodation for doctors and nurses was good, but the nurses were only having the ordinary camp rations. The Commission consider that nurses ought to have army rations, and the option of buying any additions they may require at a certain fixed rate. The good feeding of doctors and nurses working hard from morning till night in an unhealthy atmosphere is of great importance.

The Boer probationers' mess tent was extremely bare and comfortless; its furniture consisted of one table and one bench. It was stated that they generally stood to their meals or took them back into the wards and ate them there. Both courses are objectionable. These girls should be well fed and care should be taken that they get some rest while at their meals.

The chief wants of the hospital are boilers for enteric sheets, a supply of filters for hospital and dispensary, and about 300 yards of mosquito netting to keep the flies from the patients' faces.

12. *Camp Matron.*—None has been appointed, but Mr. Thompson has a young woman in view who would, he thinks, be suitable. We have never yet seen a really successful camp matron chosen from the camp, but we hope this may prove an exception.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. du Plessis. He has six elders for the six sections of the camp. These elders visit the tents, and on Sunday mornings each one holds a service in his own section. Mr. du Plessis holds two services in different places every Sunday afternoon in the camp. There are two Sunday schools, but not a very large attendance. Mr. du Plessis thought there were about 170 scholars. He visited hospital, and in general undertakes all ministerial duties in the camp. People in camp seem dissatisfied that Mr. du Plessis had charge of the distribution of clothing. They said

he was "schelm" and that they would prefer an Englishman. But we have heard from other sources a very high opinion expressed of him.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—There is a wired enclosure, not well placed, opposite the entrance, probably the most lively spot in the whole camp. Six men were in at the time of our visit; they were receiving visits and presents. There is a rule that they are not allowed to write or receive letters, but the non-observance of this rule would be extremely easy in consequence of their free communication with outsiders. If there was any case of misbehaviour too serious for the wired enclosure, the culprits would be handed over to the Provost Marshal. Mr. Thompson said there had been no trouble about morals.

15. *Education.*—The school was started in April, and is at present held in five canvas shelters with no sitting accommodation. The children bring their own little home-made seats. Two new brick buildings 30 feet by 22 feet, for school use are far advanced towards completion, and three more will be erected. There are 987 children of school age (between 6 and 14) in the camp. Of these 577 are on the books of the school, and the average attendance is 550. The headmaster is Mr. de Villiers, a Dutchman, who has a good command of English. He seems a good and capable teacher. He told us of children to whom in April he was teaching the A B C of English, who are now in Standard IV., at present the highest standard in the school. He has four assistants, all Dutch. More teachers are badly wanted. The headmaster would like to teach the boys drawing, and the girls sewing, but he is at present without the neceesary material. The children look clean, bright, and intelligent.

There is also a small Dutch school in camp, at which the fees are 2*s.* 6*d.* a month.

16. *Occupations.*—The most interesting new feature in the way of occupation in this camp was a dressmaking school. Two young women who had been trained as dressmakers, applied to the Superintendent for accommodation that would enable them to take in work from the town. Mr. Thompson gave his consent, and set them up in a good marquee, on condition that they should take not less than 12 young girls from the camp as pupils. They now have 21 pupils, and they get a good deal of work. The day before our arrival they had had a sale or bazaar, which had brought in 5*l.* 6*s.* 9*d.* Mr. Thompson had given 1*l.* of this to the young women who started the concern, and the balance was to be devoted to buying materials on which the pupils could practice; then a second sale would be held, and so on. There was no brick-making; the soil was unsuitable, and water too difficult to get. Mr. Thompson is going to make a garden now that the rains have come, and he is procuring a plough to plough up the land. He has a blacksmith and a tinsmith in camp, and he hopes to set them to work very shortly with pupils and apprentices on the same lines as the dressmakers.

17. *Orphans* are taken charge of by their relations.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died—*

Month.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 12.	12 to 20.	Over 20.	Totals.
March	3	25	7	4	11	50
April	5	15	10	2	6	38
May	3	16	6	7	9	41
June	1	25	7	3	11	47
July	29	52	34	13	29	157
August	38	132	86	32	41	329
September	18	70	43	16	24	171
October to 24th	10	35	16	7	10	78
Totals	107	170	209	84	141	911

20. *Women asking Permission to Leave.*—Some women were allowed out to fetch in their husbands. One brought in her son. Mr. Thompson could not recollect that any had applied to leave for other purposes.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, but are not rationed.

22. Coffins had in all cases been provided; they are made in camp, the people themselves provided shrouds for their dead. The Superintendent never heard of any complaint on this subject.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) Public boilers for water should be provided. Pipes to convey water into camp should be also provided if the borehole prove useless.

(2.) The appointment of an energetic and superior refugee as "sanitary inspector" with an increased staff of natives under him, who should be responsible to the Superintendent for the cleanly condition of latrines, the disinfection of pails, and the proper management of the latrines pits. The present man is too dirty, too ignorant, too old, and too lazy to be entrusted with this important work.

(3.) The river fenced off so as to prevent the people fouling the banks and throwing rubbish down them; and washing tables should be arranged at a convenient spot on the top of the bank with a bit of pipe and pump to bring the water up to them and a drain to carry the dirty water away; this might be used for watering the garden.

(4.) The rubbish pit should be covered in before being quite filled up with rubbish.

(5.) Bath tents should be provided for women. The Superintendent is quite ready to do this.

(6.) Mosquito netting (about 300 yards) and filters are needed for the hospital and dispensary, also boilers for enteric sheets. The boiled water used for patients' drinking water used in dispensary should be boiled and filtered.

(7.) No uninfected children should be allowed with the diphtheria or other infectious cases.

(8.) The rationing of doctors and nurses should be on the army scale, and a good place should be provided for the cooking of their food. The Boer probationers should also be allowed liberal rations and comfortable time and place for their meals close to the hospital.

(9.) Keep an eye on the Contractor who supplies meat to see that it is as good as the Government have a right to expect.

(10.) English teachers are required; three or four are badly wanted.

(11.) A sod or brick disinfecting room should be put up without delay.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, VREDEFORT ROAD, 23RD OCTOBER 1901.

This camp is two miles from the railway station and is situated on a good slope of sandy soil. It was taken over by the Civil Administration in March 1900; the present Superintendent, Mr. Brink, recently Dutch magistrate in the Orange Free State, has been in charge since May 23rd, 1901. The camp is enclosed in a wire fence and owing to military considerations has to be strictly guarded.

At the time of our visit the population was exactly 2,000, *i.e.*, 234 men, 650 women, and 1,116 children. The camp suffered from the prevalent epidemic of measles in August. The disease was imported by some refugees sent from Kroonstad. An unsuccessful attempt was made at first to isolate the cases.

1. *Water Supply.*—Drinking water is scanty and has to be fetched from a spring 2½ miles from the camp. It is carried by seven water carts, each making several journeys a day and bringing a total of 2,000 gallons into camp per diem.

The spring is enclosed by a stone wall forming a well about 6 feet deep. Three feet of water was found in it about the middle of the day, but in the evening it becomes almost empty. The well is open, one side is delapidated, and surface washing from the surrounding ground can easily get in.

A second attempt is being made to find water by means of a bore-hole about 1½ miles from the camp, but the progress of boring is slow as the drill had to be worked by hand owing to the scarcity of animals.

Baths.—There are none, water being too scarce.

Washing.—Clothes are washed in shallow dams of dirty stagnant rain-water half a mile from the camp. The women are only allowed to go out to wash their clothes at 7 a.m. in parties of from 70 to 100 a day with a police escort. The necessity for this rule caused a natural grievance among those who had sick or very young children to attend to. The washing-place is thoroughly unsuitable in every respect, but no other is available.

2. *Sanitary System.*—Latrines with pails, emptied once daily by means of six hand-wheeled slop-tanks into pits 800 yards due east, by a staff of 13 natives under 1 white overseer. There are 9 latrines along the lower part of camp. Eighteen pails for men, 26 pails for women, 5 pails for children, 1 for Kaffirs and nine slop-pails. This accommodation is not sufficient for the women and children, and may account for the uncleanly condition of the ground in the upper part of the camp, and of the trench on that side. The latrines are built of corrugated iron and sail-cloth, they are not very clean, and require more attention.

Rubbish is collected in receptacles of all sorts, and carried by each house-holder to a cart just outside the wire fence. Twice a day the cart is inspanned and taken to a huge rubbish heap about 700 yards away. This heap is very foul and untidy, it extends over nearly half an acre, and is rather too near the camp.

A scavenging gang of lads, about a dozen at a time, do the general cleaning of the camp. A number of fresh dustheaps had been deposited near the entrance to the camp, along the road to the water-spring.

Four buckets for waste water stand at the gate by the guard tent, but these were being used for night-slops at the time of our visit, against the Superintendent's orders.

The kraal for transport mules was inside the camp, and in an extremely dirty condition, and the smell from it was very offensive. On the recommendation of the Commission the Superintendent promised that it should be removed immediately.

There is a staff of line corporals, whose duty it is to report all cases of sickness in the tents to the doctors; but this is not systematically done, they come to him at any hour instead of at a given time when he can make out his list of necessary visits after receiving their reports.

It is also their duty to distribute blankets and pots or kettles when required, and to report breaches of the sanitary regulations to the Superintendent; their sanitary duties are not very well carried out, and the whole sanitary condition of the camp is less good than many we have seen.

3. *Housing.*—There are 413 tents for the 403 families in camp.

A circular had been received that no more tents could be supplied, and that some dried brick houses were to be erected, but the lack of water makes brick-making impossible. The Superintendent complains of the overcrowding in the tents.

More than a third of the tents are occupied by more than the prescribed five persons:—

24	tents	having	8	occupants	each
12	,,	,,	9	,,	,,
6	,,	,,	10	,,	,,
3	,,	,,	11	,,	,,
1	,,	,,	12	,,	,,

The Commission found two families living in one tent, and it is evident from the above table that there is a great deal of unhealthy overcrowding.

Not a single bell tent remains in reserve in case of emergency.

On Dr. Yule's recommendation the camp had been trenched, and the Commission, who visited it after heavy rain, found it extraordinarily dry.

4. *Rations* are issued by eight issuers from two iron shelters under a head clerk to the four sections of the camp, containing 500 persons each. The rationing places were rough, and might have been cleaner. Meat ration is issued daily, and the usual difficulty arising out of the thinness of the meat has been experienced. "Bully-beef" had on two occasions to be issued instead of fresh meat, when the latter was too bad to eat. The Commission was informed that the weekly distribution of grocery and meat is made in two hours. No reserve of rations is kept in camp owing to the vicinity of the enemy, each week's ration is brought from the fort at the station. The Commission found that the new rice ration was much appreciated. There is no fresh milk at all. The following is a copy of the weekly grocery and fuel ration ticket for a family of six:—

Meal	31½ lbs.
Coffee	2 lbs. 10 oz.
Salt	2 „ 10 „
Sugar	5 „ 4 „
Coal	63 „
Wood	42 „

5. There are no public ovens or boilers.

6. *Fuel.*—The Superintendent stated that the usual O.R.C. fuel ration pressed hardly on small families, and he had therefore substituted for it the following scale, *i.e.* 50 lbs. of coal a week for families of five and under, and 1½ lbs. of coal per head per diem for families of six and over, and in addition one pound of wood per head per diem.

There has been very great difficulty regarding the fuel in this camp, and this rule could not always be carried out. At one time the people were entirely dependent on "Mist," which they collected, but owing to military regulations this had to be stopped. The wood is sent from Kroonstad, and is weighed. It is distributed with the coal from a wired enclosure. We found the people helped themselves to their own coal ration, picking out the largest lumps before taking it to be weighed by the issuer, the result was a large accumulation of small coal, which was being trampled into dust.

7. *Slaughter-place.*—Meat is supplied by the agent of the Bloemfontein contractor, Messrs. Champion.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The Superintendent said there was a great lack of bed-frames or "kartels," and this fact was also noticed by the Commission; 123 tents are without any bed-frames. The circular from Captain Trollope regarding wood for "kartels" had been received, but no wood had arrived. There is plenty of wire for making the lacings, if only the wood can be procured; 721 blankets have been issued.

9. *Clothing.*—In June and July 20 large cases containing goods of all kinds had been received from the Relief Committee at Cape Town, and 300*l.* worth of Government clothing was issued in June. Families that had arrived since that issue were, however, really in want of it; the Superintendent said he hoped to be able to supply them in time.

10. *Shops.*—There are two shops in the camp—Messrs. Dright and Company and Mr. Simmons—these were supposed to be in competition with one another. There are great complaints of the manner in which these stores are being conducted, and the Superintendent has already had trouble on this account. We found that cotton print was being sold at 1*s.* and 1*s.* 3*d.* a yard, which at Kroonstad cost 8*d.* and 9*d.* The shops were absolutely bare of foodstuffs or groceries, and therefore, although anxious to buy them, the people were unable to do so. The Commission consider that this matter should be carefully looked into at once. The very general complaint on the

subject appeared to be justified, and suggestions were heard in camp that the shops were being unfairly conducted. The people were dependent on these shops for wholesome variations in their diet, and if properly supervised, they form a very necessary adjunct to camp life, and reduce the necessity for issuing medical comforts.

11–12. *Hospital and Camp Matron.*—There are two doctors—Dr. Graham, and his assistant Dr. Monckton, a recent arrival. The matron is Miss de Pont, with an untrained assistant nurse—Miss Le Fevre, who does the out-patient work chiefly, and is practically camp matron. There are some probationers paid 2*s.* a day, three of whom undertake night duty.

The hospital consists of five marquees and three bell tents, with a total of 40 beds. Three more marquees with beds and bedding are in reserve if required, but the sheets and pillow cases for these are lacking.

The hospital equipment is good, but the floors of the marquees are bad and require re-making.

The kitchen for the hospital is a ragged tent, very unsuitable for the purpose; at the other end of the hospital grounds is another tent used as a kind of ward kitchen; a Berkfeldt filter is in each. There is a Soyer's stove for boiling drinking water for the hospital. There are 30 patients in hospital, mostly cases of pneumonia and bronchitis following on measles. There are seven cases of scurvy (six in the lines and one in the hospital) and two cases of Cancrum Oris. There is no epidemic at present, but a good number of cases of influenza. A suspect case of scarlet fever was isolated and did not spread.

There is no fresh milk for the hospital.

The hospital latrine was clean, but the accommodation insufficient and hardly decently screened. There should be a separate one for nurses. The hospital slops are taken away in a hand-wheeled tank to the latrine pits.

Two 40-gallon boilers for boiling enteric sheets have been indented for, but not received. There is no destructor for enteric stools. There have been no cases of enteric as yet, however. The hospital washing is done in the dam after disinfection.

The Mortuary, which was very unsatisfactory, was at the opposite end of the camp from the hospital near the mule kraal. It consists of a very ragged bell tent without trestles, the corpses wrapped in blankets only, lay on stretchers on the ground; there were no means of keeping animals and idlers out. On the recommendations of the Committee it was removed at once to the hospital enclosure and trestles provided. The Superintendent also indented for calico for shrouds.

Cemetery.—Outside the wire fence. Very roughly kept and unenclosed.

The Dispensary is fairly well stocked, but a sod hut is much needed in place of the present bell tent. There is no out-patient department, all cases being visited by the doctor in their tents.

Dr. Monckton visits daily in the lines attended by Miss Le Fevre, who interprets for him and sees that his instructions are carried out. She does this work very well, and is popular and would make a good "camp matron" if the duties of that post were explained to her.

A Boer woman has been recently chosen for this post, with the duty of cooking and dispensing soup from the soup-kitchen, the stove for which has not yet been received; 50*l.* a year seems an exorbitant sum for the services this woman is able to perform. She cannot write, and is certainly not fit to be a "camp matron."

Medical Comforts are issued on the doctors' orders by the dispenser between 2 and 3 o'clock. There is an excessive economy in the issue of these in this camp. This is especially the case with milk, only nine tins being issued per diem over and above the ration of one-twelfth tin, which is intended for adult consumption with coffee, and is totally insufficient for children. The necessity for a liberal supply of milk to the children and sick is rendered greater by the fact that, owing to the bareness of the shops, the people cannot buy it for themselves at all.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—There is none. Two ministers belonging to the district have been offered the appointment, but have declined to take the oath of allegiance.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—No means of discipline, except fining. The Superintendent much doubted if the fines would be paid. No difficulty had been experienced about morals.

15. *Education.*—There are four school shelters. The head master, Mr. Higgs, and three assistants, are Dutch, and spoke very bad English. There are 307 children on the register, and all were attending. The appliances were elementary; action songs and sewing are being taught, the latter very well. We saw some spirited drawings done by the scholars under great difficulties, as there was only one table among them. The children formerly attended only in the morning, but at thier own request school is now held in the afternoon also, from 1.30 to 3.30 p.m. A feature of this camp is the appointment of an attendance officer, paid 3*l.* a month, and who "whips up" fresh scholars very successfully.

16.—*Occupations.*—A garden of one acre is to be started in the hospital enclosure, but a great difficulty will arise owing to the lack of water. The camp matron is to distribute the produce.

There are four veldtschoon makers, the leather being supplied chiefly by Government.

Coffins are made in camp.

17. *Orphans.*—These are taken care of by relations generally, but in two cases guardians have been appointed by the Orphan Chamber.

18. *Local Committee.*—There is none.

19. *Returns of Deaths in Camp.*—

——	Under 1 year.	1—5.	5—12.	12—20.	Over 20.	Total.
March	1	—	—	—	—	1
April	—	2	1	—	3	6
May	2	3	1	1	10	17
June	1	3	2	2	10	18
July	2	2	—	4	6	14
August	5	10	1	2	3	21
September	16	59	20	13	14	102
October, to 23rd	8	28	13	1	5	55
Totals	35	87	38	23	51	234

20. *Women applying to leave Camp to go to Friends.*—About 12 persons have applied for leave to go to friends, and in six cases have been allowed to do so.

21. *Native Servants* are allowed, but are not rationed; they sleep in camp, as the military will not allow them out.

General Remarks.

This camp is very difficult to run, owing partly to the very unsatisfactory water-supply, partly to the exigencies of the military situation, and partly to the scanty transport available. The lack of water makes cleanliness nearly impossible. No baths can be arranged, and the washing of clothes has to be done some way off in a very unsuitable place.

The Superintendent, a well-meaning kindly man, of Dutch birth, belonging to this country, seems to find it impossible to get the men to work properly for him. There is much bitter feeling in the camp, and a general laxity in the control over it.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) If the removal of any camp should be contemplated, Vredefort Road is one for which this step would be highly advisable, mainly on account of the scanty water-supply.

(2.) More transport is very urgently required, and, when this is provided, more latrines, especially on the further side of the camp, also for the nurses in hospital.

(3.) More tents are needed at once, to abate serious overcrowding.

(4.) The drinking-water spring should be properly enclosed, the surrounding wall repaired and raised above the ground level; a close-fitting cover should be provided, with a hole in it for the flexible pipe to pass through.

(5.) The rapid completion of the bore-hole is urgent; hand-labour for this is too slow.

(6.) The rubbish heap should be more circumscribed, and much of it covered over with clean earth. It is better to deposit rubbish in trenches if it cannot be carted further from the camp. All small and "unauthorised" rubbish heaps should be abolished.

(7.) The cemetery should be enclosed.

(8.) More "kartels" are urgently required.

Hospital.

(9.) A brick or sod hut for fumigating clothes and mattresses is needed.

(10.) A proper hospital kitchen is required.

(11.) Milk, suitably prepared, should be more liberally issued in the lines on the doctor's order. Mellin's Food is urgently required as a medical comfort for sick children.

(12.) If a substitute can be found for Miss Le Fevre in the hospital, we consider she would make a good camp matron.

(13.) The general recommendation of boilers for drinking water applies here.

(14.) The compulsory labour rule should be more stringently observed, and the line corporals made to carry out their duties more thoroughly.

Stores.

(15.) Foodstuffs are urgently wanted for the shops, and the shop-keepers should be kept in order.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, HARRISMITH, 29TH AND 30TH NOVEMBER 1901.

This camp is beautifully situated at the foot of the mountains near Harrismith town. The locality is said to be one of the three healthiest in the world. The camp was formed in January 1901; the present Superintendent, Mr. Bradley, I.Y., began his duties last August. There were at the date of our visit 1,653 people in camp, viz., 143 men, 540 women, and 963 children. A roll call is taken every night; the camp is fenced and is now divided into two sections, separated from each other by a deep donga. The camp was originally confined to the higher of these two sections, and this, which we shall call the "old camp," is in a far better situation than the new, which ought to have been pitched higher up the hill. All the cases of enteric now in hospital originated in the "new" camp.

1. *The Water Supply* is extremely good, the same as that of the town. Two mountain springs supply three large reservoirs, capable of holding 15,000,000 gallons. These springs and the reservoirs are carefully fenced in; a caretaker lives within the fence, whose business it is to protect the springs and reservoirs from fouling and to report any defect. Two horse patrols ride over the veldt daily and take care that no dead animals or other impurities

are left near the source of the water. From the reservoirs the water is brought into the camp in 2″ iron pipes. There are three stand-pipes in the camp and also three corrugated iron cisterns of 1,000 gallons each, which act as a reserve of water. These cisterns have well-fitting lids and they are fenced in. Another stand-pipe is about to be put up to supply the hospital. Three large tanks for boiling drinking water have recently been sent up, a fourth is coming which is to be used as a cooler.

Washing Clothes.—There are two capital wood and iron wash-houses at which 96 women can wash at one time, there are eight taps in each; the tables slope downwards and the dirty water drains away to a good-sized central drain. The place for the hospital washing we thought too small, and there was not enough space for separating the enteric linen from the rest and properly disinfecting it. We would suggest that the present wash-house be converted into an additional bath-room, and a new wash-house for the hospital be erected.

Bath Rooms.—There are two bath-rooms well fitted with large enamelled iron baths. They are kept locked, but the key can be had on application. On the first day of our visit the baths had been used by 15 persons.

2. *Sanitation.*—The pail system is used, and the latrines are well kept and clean; the floors are of cement and a cemented drain outside. Each seat is screened from the others, and suitable accommodation is provided for children. The pails are emptied twice daily by the same contractor, who is employed by the town.

Disposal of Dry Rubbish.—Fifty large barrels arrived in camp on the first day of our visit. These are provided with covers and are to be placed about the camp as receptacles for dust and dry rubbish. Up to the time of our visit there had been "authorised dust heaps" taken away twice daily by the town contractor; the barrels will take the place of these. The final dumping ground is about three miles away from the camp, where a vlei is being filled up with dry rubbish, while the banks are honey-combed with trenches for the latrine deposits. This arrangement is very bad.

Disposal of Wet Rubbish.—There are nine large galvanised iron tubs placed at intervals throughout the camp; these are also emptied twice daily by the town contractor. The ground around them was clean and well sprinkled with chloride of lime.

3. *Housing.*—The great majority of the people are in bell tents, but there are about 20 houses (called Park Lane), built either of sods or of wood and iron. 50 E.P. tents are coming from India, and six marquees. When people wish to put up a house for themselves, it costs them from 3*l.* to 5*l.* The sailcloth is given to them by the Superintendent. The rule is not to have more than five in a bell tent. Smith, the head of the sanitary staff, manages the people with great tact and discretion, and gets the rule about the ventilation of tents and of houses fairly well attended to. The camp is very dry and well trenched. The surface water is drained off and used for the garden in the lower part of the camp.

4. *Rations.*—The usual O.R.C. rations are given. No tinned meat has been issued. Mutton from this locality is given four times a week, and Australian beef three times. This latter comes up direct from Durban. Meat is issued daily, groceries on Tuesdays. The milk given out for this camp is all condensed, but General Sir Leslie Rundle allots eight gallons of fresh milk daily to the hospital. A small lime-juice ration weekly to each individual has recently been sanctioned.

5. *Kitchens.*—Some of the women club together for the use of ovens, but there is no common cooking of any kind. There were originally two public bake-ovens; but they were not used, and have now been taken away. The Superintendent is going to put up at once the tanks for boiling water which he has recently received.

6. *Fuel.*—Wood only is issued, black wattle from Durban. The ration is 2lbs. per head per day, the same as a soldier's ration. Some coal is issued for the hospital.

7. *No Slaughtering* is done in camp. When captured stock is used, a local butcher is paid 2*d.* a lb. for killing and delivering it in camp.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—There are still about 65 adults in camp who have no bedstead or kartel. Scantling poles are ordered, and when they arrive in camp carpenter will make them into kartels. About 300 blankets have been issued.

9. *Clothing.*—The Superintendent had just ordered 861*l.* worth. He showed us his account. Some of his items were as follows:—

961	yards	corduroy.	446	pairs	women's boots.
1,493	„	sateen.	170	„	girls' „
1,520	„	calico.	98	„	youths' „
2,563	„	flannelette.	148	„	boys' „
1,785	„	print.			

The people who want clothing state what they are in need of, and their applications are investigated by a committee of ladies in the town, Mrs. Leary, the magistrate's wife, Mrs. Gibson, &c., on whose advice the Superintendent finally acts in making out the order.

10. *Shops.*—One only in the camp. The prices are regulated by proclamation. The Superintendent wanted to start a coolie shop for greengrocery, but the old O.F.S. law, not yet repealed, forbids any Indian trading in the State, so it was obliged to be given up, but vetegables are being sold in the shop. The shop was well provided with food stuffs, but had no clothing or hardware. We did not discover the reason of this. The people can go into the town for shopping purposes between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. They used to be allowed to go in and out as much as they pleased, any time between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. daily, but three women abused this privilege and stayed away all night; since this happened freedom to go to town has been curtailed.

11. *Hospital.*—The staff consists of one M.O., Dr. Beor, not resident in camp; two trained nurses, one English probationer, two Boer assistants.

The situation of the hospital is bad—it is in the corner of the camp, low down, it ought to be removed to higher ground as soon as possible. There are three marquees for enteric and four for measles. The number of beds is 32, and on the first day of our visit the number of patients was 25, but the beds were nearly all full before we left. More bedsteads are needed and another marquee ought to be put up for general cases. More probationers from the camp are also needed, and one native to act as handy man is also much required. The hospital furnishing and equipment are extremely scanty. In one of the measles marquees the patient had brought in her own bed and bedding, the hospital being so short of these necessaries. The enteric sheets are neither boiled nor properly disinfected. The hospital wash-house, as previously mentioned, is very small and unsuitable and at a long distance from the hospital, so that the soiled linen has to be carried all across the camp. An incinerator for enteric stools should be provided. In one enteric marquee were four children, all members of the same family, who had been living in a bell tent in the "new" camp. Two members of the family had died already. Nothing had been done to disinfect the tent or the ground on which it stood. Notwithstanding these serious defects in the hospital organisation at Harrismith, we desire to mention that although there have been in all 76 cases treated in the hospital, there have been only four deaths, and that this is the only camp in which we have heard a message from a person sick in the lines, asking why the hospital had not sent the stretcher to bring her in as promised.

The patients were carefully attended to and looked after, as far as the short equipment permitted, and we were pleased to see that mosquito netting was used to protect the enteric patients from flies. It should be mentioned that though Harrismith is naturally an extremely healthy place, there was a good deal of sickness, especially enteric, among the troops in it at the time of our visit. It was constantly being brought in by the columns.

Housing and Feeding of the Nursing Staff.—One nurse has a comfortable room, the others have bell tents. A bell tent also serves as a mess tent. We

think the nurses should have a marquee as mess room, and that some comfortable chairs should be provided for it. The feeding of the nurses is not what it should be, they draw ordinary refugee rations with the addition of ½lb. meat daily. We think they should be allowed army rations.

Out-patients and Lines.—Out-patients are seen at the hospital, and the lines are supposed to be visited by the doctor every forenoon. There is no camp matron and the system of reporting cases of sickness in the tents is not good. Request for a doctor's visit have to be sent to the hospital in the morning and in some cases this request was never made, and the patient died without having been visited by a doctor at all. The tents are neither lettered nor numbered and this is another hindrance to the doctor's visits, and occasions waste of time.

12. *Camp Matron.*—We felt that a trained nurse was urgently required as camp matron, and telegraphed to the Deputy Administrator to that effect before leaving Harrismith. There is a Miss Brink in camp, who is called camp matron, and who was appointed three days before our arrival. She looks after the soup kitchen, but she has not got the capacity, training, and experience which would enable her to organise a thorough system of visiting, reporting cases of sickness, and attending to the nursing of the sick in the lines.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—The Rev. C. P. Theron is resident in camp and seems to give satisfaction.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—The Superintendent said he had found no special means of discipline necessary. With the exception of the women previously referred to, who absented themselves all night, it is feared for immoral purposes, he had had very little trouble.

15. *Education.*—There is a very good school in this camp with 350 children on the roll, and an average attendance of about 212. The headmaster is Mr. B. J. Smit. He speaks English well. One of the new school shelters, built of sun-dried bricks, has been put up and the walls had been whitewashed, which much improved the appearance of the shelter. Good benches and seats had been made by the Royal Engineers. Five marquees are also occupied by the school. A fairly large group of scholars were preparing for one of the examinations of the Cape Town University, called the "School Higher." They were doing Latin and Mathematics. This was the most advanced teaching we have seen in any camp. The school is provided with a harmonium. Many of the children take home work to do. There was a bright, cheerful spirit about the school and we feel sure it is doing good work. A dramatic and musical entertainment, in which both scholars and teachers were to take part, was in preparation for the evening of November 29th, and we saw flowers and other signs of the little festival being brought into the camp. It should however be noted that the rule that all classes should be taught in English was disregarded, and a senior class was writing composition in Dutch.

16. *Occupations.*—There was a capital garden attached to this camp, produce from which will soon be available.

There had been a sewing class for girls, conducted by a camp lady, Mrs. De Villiers, but there were no special occupations which call for remark. A tennis club was just going to be started.

17. *Orphans* are taken care of by their relatives.

18. *Local Committees.*—None but that referred to under Question 9, which advises Mr. Bradley about clothing.

19. *Return of Ages of those who have Died.*—Up to the present Harrismith has been one of the healthiest camps in either the O.R.C. or the Transvaal. Enteric and measles have unfortunately made their appearance, and we feel

that a strong effort ought to be be made to stamp them out, before they get a firm hold upn the camp.

Month.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 12.	12 to 20.	Over 20.	Total.
January - -	—	—	—	—	1	1
February - -	—	—	—	1	1	2
March - -	3	—	—	—	—	3
April - - -	—	—	—	1	1	2
May - - -	—	—	—	—	—	0
June - - -	—	—	—	1	—	1
July - - -	—	1	1	—	1	3
August - - -	4	2	—	—	1	7
September - -	1	—	—	—	1	2
October - - -	3	2	—	—	—	5
November to 29th -	8	6	—	1	3	18
TOTALS - -	19	11	1	4	9	44

20. *How many Women have asked to Leave?*—Some have asked to go to their husbands in Ceylon, but this may have been partly in joke. "A good few" have been allowed to leave to go to relatives; the approval of the commandant of the place to which they go is required, and no one is allowed to leave who has relatives still on commando. This we are informed is a necessary precaution in view of the information constantly supplied to the enemy in the field.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, there are about 45 in the camp. They are not rationed. The Superintendent iuforms them all that they are free to leave if they wish to do so; he also inquires into their wages and treatment by their employers.

22. *Coffins and Shrouds* have been provided free in every case where death has occurred. An undertaker in the town is employed who charges 4*l.* 10*s.* for an adult, and 2*l.* 10*s.* for that of a child. Burials take place in the town cemetery.

GENERAL REMARKS.

We had some rather interesting conversations with people in this camp. One woman complained that her "adopted son," aged 11, had deserted her, leaving her with a sick girl and a baby one month old. She remarked she supposed it was a case of "Each for himself and God for all." On investigation it appeared the boy had been beaten and ill-treated by the woman, and that he had gone to the British soldier's camp, where the men had given him jam and pennies and made a pet of him.

Another conversation was held with a mother and daughter, who came from the Bethlehem district. The daughter said that before the British came to Bethlehem they had heard "such terrible lies" about them. When they came, these ladies said, the British soldiers had occupied the village where they lived for more than a year, and they had never heard even a rough word from them. The younger woman spoke again and again of the lies which had been told, and the wickedness which prompted them, and ended up by saying, "Now I will stick up for the British till I die in my grave." She had two brothers prisoners in Ceylon. They wrote constantly, and often spoke of the good treatment they received. Another interesting visit was to old Mr. B., for 24 years a member of the Volksraad. He was about 76 years of age, and evidently very ill. He had been only a fortnight in camp, but had been seriously ill for 11 months. He said the Superintendent had been very kind to him and brought him fresh milk daily; also that the military authorities at Bethlehem had been very good to him. They had offered him a permit to go to his daughter at Pretoria, but he preferred remaining where he was. He deeply deplored the war, and said he had done his best to prevent it, supporting the policy of Mr. Fraser, against that of Steyn, but he had been overborne; he had seen the overthrow of the independence of his country, and was a dying broken-hearted man. He said "If President Brand had lived this war would never had taken place."

General Sir Leslie Rundle takes a kindly interest in this camp, and is always ready to do things for it. The Superintendent said that though the general had only, once on the occasion of Lord Milner's visit, come into the camp, he could always rely on him for practical help in every possible way. "It was only a question of ask and have." General Rundle informed us that an order had been received about a month ago from headquarters not to bring any more people compulsorily into the Concentration Camps. Since this had been acted upon there had been a constant flow of people into the camp, who were coming in voluntarily; some arrived on the second day of our visit; they had driven in a Cape cart, over 28 miles, in very bad weather.

Recommendations.

(1.) Appoint a trained nurse as a camp matron, with a sufficient staff of local assistants.

(2.) Remove the hospital to a better site; appoint more local assistants for the hospital nuring staff. Put up another marquee for general cases. Provide proper hospital equipment. Put up a proper hospital wash-house, close to the new site, and make the present hospital wash-house into a bath-room.

Give the nurses army rations and pay a native to act as hospital handy-man.

(3.) The present site of the hospital should be left unoccupied.

(4.) Put up a boiler for enteric linen, and an incerator for the stools.

(5.) Number and letter the tents.

(6.) Remove the lower part of the "new" camp higher up the hill.

(7.) Take down every tent in which there has been enteric and repitch it, after disinfection, on clean ground. The old ground should be thoroughly disinfected, and left without any tent upon it.

(8.) Public bake ovens should be put up, or the fuel ration should be increased.

REPORTS ON TRANSVAAL CAMPS.

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REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, JOHANNESBURG, 26TH AND 27TH SEPTEMBER 1901.

Johannesburg Camp contains 3,200 people. It was started in February. Mr. Noble, the present Superintendent, is Mr. A. Noble.

The arrival of the Commission was quite unexpected. Mr. Noble was absent in town, where he also has charge of several thousand refugees. He was telephoned for, and until he arrived, the Assistant-Superintendent and the doctor, Dr. James, gave us every assistance and information.

The camp is in a charming situation on the Johannesburg Race Course, about 3 miles from the station. The grand stand is utilised for the school, and the various buildings as offices, store, hospital, &c. No camp yet visited by the Commission is so well off for building accommodation; and it has other most excellent features, due to the thoughtfulness and organising capacity of the Superintendent. Among these should be particularly noted the stands for supplying boiling water. The water is served boiling three times a day, and the people simply have to bring their pots and fetch it away. There are two of these boilers, and a third in course of erection. They supply 2,400 gallons of boiling water daily. Attached to them are also three public ovens for baking bread; each of these can bake 140 ten-pound loaves every day. A man is placed in charge of each oven, and he gives notice to the women when it will be their turn to have their bread baked. These ovens and boiling tanks were carried out according to Mr. Noble's designs, and cost about 40*l.* each. They must be an immense help to the people, and of course make their ration of fuel go much further. They are constantly used, but the people have never expressed one syllable of gratitude or satisfaction in regard to them.

This is the first camp in which the Commission have found a soup kitchen established and a regular service of "camp nurses" trained under two camp matrons. The camp nurses visit the whole camp daily, note cases of sickness, take temperatures, and report to doctors. These camp nurses are not paid; they only receive uniform, and get their training from the camp matrons. The camp matrons issue soap, milk, and medical comforts on doctor's orders.

The soup kitchen was started before the measles epidemic. It supplied 18 buckets of soup a week to children sick in their tents. It was taken round by the camp nurses.

The most notable mistake which has been made at Johannesburg was the erection by the military when the camp was first started of six very large and costly wood and iron barrack-rooms, intended each to hold 160 people. These are built in two stories; but on the advice of Dr. Crook, formerly doctor of the camp, the upper floor is no longer inhabited. There is a raised

platform on each side, on which the people have made themselves small separate cubicles. They have a comfortless look, and one is now altogether disused; scarlet fever broke out in it, and the people were moved into an isolation camp. There were in all five cases, but owing to prompt isolation and careful nursing no more cases had occurred since the 6th of September. Johannesburg is full of scarlet fever, and the whole camp is now strictly quarantined from the town.

1. *Water Supply.*—From the Johannesburg Waterworks; first-class water. Besides the hot-water tanks already mentioned, there are eight self-filling cisterns of 1,000 gallons each. Each is fitted with either three or four taps in convenient positions about the camp, and there are also four extra stand pipes. The water has been analysed and pronounced excellent. It is to be analysed again.

The arrangements for washing clothes are very good. The washing troughs are 500 yards away from the camp and at a lower level. There are 10 troughs or benches covered with zinc; each has a little platform to stand on, and can accommodate at least eight women. Each trough is supplied with three taps and a good drain to carry off the dirty water. Besides these there are four simpler washing troughs, with scrubbing boards, taps and drains. There are all supplied with water from three cisterns—two of 1,000 gallons and one of 600. The scarlet fever "contact" camp has its own washing trough and a cistern with four taps. The total number of washing troughs is 15.

Personal Washing.—There are four bath-houses for women and two for men. Each contains two baths fitted with taps, plugs, and drains. There was also an outdoor washing place for men, fitted with 12 basins. The women's bath-houses looked very little used. Fowls had taken up their abode in one; another had been turned into a sort of carpenter's shop. One of the men's bath-houses looked as if it had been recently used.

2. *Sanitation.*—The latrines are under the management of the mining area authority, and are cleared daily. There are 18 latrines in all, with 64 seats and 27 extra pails for men, and 110 seats for women and children. The latrines are scrubbed by a staff of natives, supervised by sanitary police, members of which are on duty all day long to see that the latrines are properly used and the surrounding ground kept clean. In the segregation camp (where families are placed for 10 days prior to being sent away to other camps, to ensure their being free from infection) the latrine accommodation is insufficient, and the wood running by the side of this camp has been extensively fouled. A hole in the ground near the washing troughs had also been habitually used as a latrine.

The removal of Wet and Dry Rubbish is extremely well provided for. In every block of 50 tents one tent is withdrawn, and in the space two corrugated iron bins are placed—one for wet and one for dry rubbish—and are emptied daily. Owing to the way these are placed, no family is more than five tents distance from these receptacles. The camp itself was extremely neat and clean. It was pointed out to Mr. Noble that in one place the bin for wet refuse was absent, and the people were mixing wet and dry in the same bin; but this was quite an exception. There were in all 20 bins for wet and 21 for dry rubbish. Every Monday morning a scavenging gang is selected from among the men in camp. It is the business of these men to keep the camp clean; it gives them two or three hours' work a day for the week when they are on duty. They are not paid. Each man gets his turn at it about every six weeks. The dust and dry rubbish was cleared away to a large dust-heap at the end of the race course. This dust heap was spread over a very large area, and was not free from smell owing to bits of meat, sheeps' heads, skins of animals, and other decaying matter which was thrown there with the dust. It was suggested to Mr. Noble that it might become necessary to dig holes to receive this refuse and to cover it in with earth.

3. *Housing.*—Owing to the buildings connected with the race course, there is more variety than in any other camp visited by the Commission. There are a large number of "loose-boxes" which have been converted into dwellings. These are greatly liked by the people. Most families who have secured them

are very unwilling to give them up, and have sometimes declined to leave in order to move to camps in other districts. The six big barracks have been already described. The rest of the people are in the main in bell tents, though a few of the more well-to-do families have put up square buck sail houses for themselves. The average number in a tent is 4½. The distance from pole to pole is 30 feet. Flaps are ordered to be lifted daily; but there is a good deal of trouble to get this rule enforced. When people are very contumacious on the subject the pole of the tent is withdrawn.

4. *Rations.*—A week's rations is issued at a time, on four days in the week, one quarter of the camp being served on each day. The issue lasts for about four hours. When the camp was first started there was a good deal of trouble about the quality of the rations supplied, but since March 1st all the grocery rations have been first-rate. The meat has been poor and thin. Mr. Noble had one carcase separated entirely, the bone from the meat, and he found that 3½ lbs. of meat and bone yielded 2 lbs. of solid meat. He allows an extra ration of meat to compensate for the poor quality. Dr. Crook, who was formerly medical officer here, advised him that fresh meat, however poor, was valuable as a preventive of scurvy. He therefore prefers issuing it, and not tinned meat, though he has quantities of corned beef in store in case of emergencies. The people prefer to have their coffee served in the raw berry, but Mr. Noble reckons that 6 ozs. of ground coffee equals 9 ounces of coffee berries unroasted, and he accordingly issues a ration of 9 ounces a week.

A soup kitchen was started before the measles epidemic, and was aided by a gift of vegetables, rice and barley, from the Dutch Committee; the Government gave the meat, the fuel, the labour, the boilers, &c. It was of the greatest use during the epidemic. The soup was issued on doctor's orders as a medical comfort to sick children and others in their tents. The distribution of soup from the soup kitchen is stopped now, but Mr. Noble would start it again immediately if the necessity arose.

Besides the ordinary meat ration, heads, plucks, tripe, &c. are distributed to each of the four sections of the camp in turn.

All the issuers are refugees, except one, who weighs the rations and checks the books.

5. *Kitchens.*—The public bake-houses and the public supply of boiling water have been already referred to as among the best features of the Johannesburg camp. With these important exceptions, the cooking is done in the ordinary way, each family cooking for itself.

6. *Fuel.*—The ration is 7 lbs. of wood and 14 lbs. of coal per adult per week. Mr. Noble has a large reserve store of wood in camp, and men were busy cutting it up. It comes from Nylstroom in trucks.

7. *Slaughter-poles* were in a good situation, under the shade of trees, but the trestles were not properly cleaned and the hole for offal was not properly covered in. It was covered with flies, and scraps of skin and flesh were lying about. The slaughter-hole into which the blood is drained had been used too long. It should be filled in and another made.

Children ought not to be allowed to congregate to witness the slaughter of animals. The skins are eventually sent away, but a large stock of them had been allowed to accumulate. Four skins had been given gratis to each family. No tanning is done in camp.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The Superintendent and doctor thought quite half the people were sleeping on the ground. On going round the tents, however, the Commission thought there was a fairly large provision of kartels. Probably, however, one-third of the whole camp were without any kind of bedstead. The Commission urged on Mr. Noble the desirability of encouraging the making of kartels; the difficulty as usual is to find the necessary wood and to induce the people to work for each other. 3,000 blankets have been given out but no water-proof sheets.

9. *Clothing.*—Cases for relief were investigated by the "line nurses," who report to the camp matron and to the doctor. In reply to inquiries, Mr. Noble said, "They swindle us right and left." He told us of a woman who

came almost bare foot to beg for a pair of boots. She asked for a very large size, No. 8. They were given her, and it was discovered that she went straight away and sold them for about half what they had cost the Government.

Notwithstanding the almost hopeless difficulty of finding out genuine cases of want, the Superintendent went on distributing clothes.

500*l.* worth of Government clothing had been distributed, 250*l.* of which was given during September, besides gifts from private societies.

10. *Shop.*—The only shop is the one kept by Poynton Bros. Prices are regulated by the Government, and an arrangement has been made by which profits over a certain per-centage are given back to be used for the clothing of the camps. At Johannesburg Messrs. Poynton were also running a greengrocery shop. There were pineapples, lemons, carrots, turnips, radishes, lettuces, &c. About 2*l.* or 3*l.* a day was taken here.

At the shop itself there were parasols, men's suits, boots, sardines, butter, dates, sweets, quaker oats, cheese, pickles, Worcester sauce, &c. The man in charge of the store rather complained of the lavish distribution of Government clothing. He said "the Government has clothed nearly every one this month." He said that the purchasing power of the camp was about 50*l.* a day, and that nearly every one bought something. Boers are extremely fond of sweets. On the day Poynton's shop was opened 200 lbs. weight of sweets were sold.

11. *Hospital.*—Dr. James has been the only medical officer for the last month. He is able to get through his work in consequence of the good organisation of camp "line nurses," who go through the camps every day and report cases of sickness to the matrons, who report to the doctor. There is an out-patient department which is much used, The hospital consists of two large wards (part of the race course buildings) containing 25 beds each.

On the date of the Commission's visit there were 34 patients in the hospital, 32 of whom were suffering from a mild form of enteric fever. There are two hospital nurses with five local assistants, and two camp nurses with six local assistants. A fully-trained nurse is coming. There are three isolation camps—one, already mentioned, for those who have to be moved to other camps to ensure their being free from infection; one for scarlet fever, and one for contacts.

All tents in which cases of enteric have been discovered are struck and fumigated, and the ground sprinkled with disinfectant and afterwards left to purify in sun and air. All enteric linen is disinfected and boiled. The enteric excreta is also boiled. There is a disinfecting room for clothes.

There is not much resistance now on the part of the camp people to letting their relatives come to the hospital. Friends are allowed to visit the hospital daily from 3 to 5. Children under three are as a rule not taken as patients. The doctor has given orders throughout the camp that children under six are not to be fed on coffee. The hospital kitchen has an excellent large range and a brick floor.

The doctor spoke very strongly of the filthy habits of the people, and said he had never seen anything like it. He also finds much difficulty arising from utter disregard of the doctor's orders.

12. *Camp Matrons.*—There are two in this camp, Nurse Murray and Nurse Oswegen, doing good work as already described.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—There is no minister resident in camp, but permits are readily given to ministers to come from Johannesburg. There are a number of church elders in the camp, who hold prayer meetings, visit the sick, and so on.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Mr. Noble has had very little difficulty, but he would dock the rations as a disciplinary measure. There is also a wired-in enclosure which has been used as a place of solitary confinement. He has had to send three women away altogether; but both Mr. Noble and the doctor thought that statements concerning immorality in camp had been greatly exaggerated.

15. *School.*—There are about 700 names on the books, and an average attendance of 600. They started with 109. The schoolmaster is an English-

man, Rev. Davis, and he has nine assistants, all out of camp. The school was not in session at the date of the Commission's visit, as a ten days holiday had just begun. Mr. Davis was, however, in camp, and showed us his arrangements for the school. He had made some of the benches with his own hands during the last holidays. He said the Dutch Committee, now disbanded, used to dissuade parents from sending their children to school. He goes round the camp and visits parents and persuades them to send their children.

16. *Occupations.*—Carpentering, shoemaking, bricklaying. There is a reading-room in the camp managed by some of the men. They have a comfortable marquee well stocked with English illustrated papers, "Black and White," "Ally Sloper," "Graphic," &c. In the men's barrack-room various amusements and occupations were going forward. There was a barber's shop, a tea and coffee shop; men were making toy wagons (for which they asked 4*l.*). Several groups were playing cards. There is no compulsory labour except for the scavenging gang.

17. *Orphan Children* were almost invariably taken by their relations. A six days' old child was taken immediately. Boers are very good about this.

18. *Local Committees.*—A committee of the Dutch Reformed Church had been formed in Johannesburg to work in the camp, and had for a time worked well. It was, however, gradually discovered that their aim was to keep a political influence over the camp. They made unfair attacks upon the doctor; they wanted to run the camp on their own lines; to give relief especially to those whose husbands were still fighting. It became a question whether the camp was going to be run by the Government who paid for it or by this committee, and the upshot was that the committee were excluded from the camp altogether, and things have been much more quiet and peaceful in consequence.

Mr. Noble spoke very warmly of the way General Maxwell had backed him up. At the same time, the local committee would not have been turned out but for the vigorous protests of the Superintendent.

19. *Return of Ages of those who have Died.*—The total number of deaths in the eight months—February to September—is 410. Of these, 87 were under one year; 185 were between one and five; 77 between five and 12; 37 were between 12 and 40; five were between 40 and 50; 19 were over 50.

The deaths were in—

February	11
March	31
April	68
May	101
June	41
July	37
August	80
September	37
	406

20. *Number of Women asking Permission to Leave.*—If the police agree, they are allowed to leave if they can show they can support themselves.

21. A few servants are allowed, but they are not rationed.

22. Coffins and shrouds had always been duly provided.

General Remarks.

The people seem on excellent terms with Mr. Noble, and they greet him with a pleasant smile wherever he goes.

He works indefatigably for the camp.

The provision of boiling water, public bake-houses, &c. may well be adopted in other camps.

Recommendations.

This is one of the best camps the Commission has yet seen. The only suggestions they have to make are—

(1.) That the tents are too closely pitched. If families are moved away to the coast or elsewhere, the opportunity should be taken to withdraw some of the tents.

(2.) The latrines for the segregation and scarlet fever camps should be increased, and a latrine should be put up conveniently near the washing troughs.

Some suggestions were made to the Superintendent about the slaughter poles, which he promised to act upon.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, IRENE, 23RD, 24TH, AND 25TH SEPTEMBER 1901.

The camp is alongside the railway, quite close to the station.

It numbered on August 31st 4,655 persons—namely, 1,050 men, 1,679 women, 1,979 children.

The Superintendent is Mr. Esselin.

The ground on which the camp is pitched is rocky and stony; it is on a good slope, but is extremely untidy and ill-kept, and the tents are pitched very close together. It has apparently been the custom, when a family was large enough to require two tents, to pitch an extra tent between those already erected; the tents in a good many instances almost touch one another. On the afternoon on which we arrived in camp Mr. Esselin had summoned a mothers' meeting, to introduce to them a newly-arrived infant-school teacher. This was done by ringing a large bell, which was fixed near the church tent.

1. *Water Supply.*—Brought from a spring 6 miles distant, in an open furrow, protected against animals by barbed wire (not in efficient repair) for two miles from the camp. A dead beast was accidentally found lying in the furrow a day or two before our visit.

A man is employed to guard the water supply, but it is evident he does not do so properly.

The Superintendent, who came to the camp in July, has never been to the source of the water. At the point where it reaches the camp a miniature dam has been made, round which fowls congregate, and which is only cleaned out twice a month.

From the dam the water is pumped through pipes into six 1,000 gallon cisterns fitted with taps and placed at intervals through the whole length of the centre of the camp.

The same water is supplied by the same pumping engine to the railway station.

The cisterns in camp are well placed on stones, but the ground there is very damp, owing to careless use of the taps. Dr. Neethling told more than one member of the Commission that the cisterns were dirty inside, but it was impossible to verify this owing to the height of the cisterns.

Washing.—Arrangements were fair; two long washing-troughs have been provided. One of these was inefficiently drained. There is a small stream lower down in which skins are soaked for tanning, and some women were actually washing clothes in this filthy water.

There were several pig-styes in a more or less dirty condition close to the washing-troughs.

Bath-houses do not exist. The Superintendent intends to put up canvas shelters as bath-houses as soon as possible, and will consult medical officers as to site, &c.

2. *Latrines.*—"Pail system," 17 in all—7 for men, 7 for women, 1 for children, 1 for natives, and 1 near the washing-place. The accommodation is sufficient. The pails are emptied daily by natives, and the contents are conveyed in two sanitary carts to trenches dug daily about 1½ miles away, covered in at once, and dusted over with chloride of lime. The pails are disinfected with coal tar, and the latrines, with two exceptions, were clean and well kept. Two men and two women, sanitary police, keep guard over the latrines. These arrangements are under one competent man, Van Schalkwyk. There has been great difficulty in contending against the dirty

habits of the people; their tendency is to empty slops on to the floor of their tents.

The ground outside four of the latrines, and also some holes at the lower end of the camp, were badly fouled.

Disposal of Refuse.—The removal of dust is not well done; pails are supposed to be provided at proper intervals, but there were not enough of these, and the small dust-heaps all over the camp and veldt were very inefficiently carted away.

3. *Housing.*—Bell tents chiefly. A few brick houses, not yet occupied, had been built for the staff. The rule about lifting tent-flaps is habitually disregarded. The Superintendent said the "line captains" were supposed to get the flaps up, but the women "flared up" and got the better of them. The average number to a tent is five persons.

4. *Rations.*—The meat ration is issued twice weekly from a wood and canvas shelter, about the size of a marquee, to which the carcases are brought to be cut up.

The shelter was dark and cool, with no windows, and there were very few flies. The people passed in at one door, and after they had received their ration they left by another door. The floor, though much trampled, was not made, and it was impossible to clean it properly. Bits of skin and spatterings of blood continually fall on it. Round three sides were wooden boxes; the meat, when cut up is put into these, all the pieces of the same weight being put into the same box. A rough T-screen in front of the entrance door is arranged to keep off the crowd.

The meat ration is served out from 7.30 a.m. till 12.30, and from 2 till 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The grocery ration is issued from the store tent on Mondays and Tuesdays.

There was a crowd round the door, many sitting on the ground to wait their turn.

The ration book kept by the book-keeper is rather elaborate. As each person arrived and handed in his ration card, the book-keeper hunted up the index number in the book and placed a mark in the date column to show the rations had been issued, then he made a mark on the ration card, and meanwhile the meat was weighed out and given to the applicant, who reclaimed his card as he left. The process was so slow that, halfway through, Mr. Wright (the head issuer) authorised the abandonment of the entry in the book to save time.

The whole camp is served with 1½ lbs. of meat per adult and 1 lb. each child (under 12 years) twice a week. This ration includes bone.

The meat was extremely thin (the sheep weighed only 15 and 16 lbs. each), and the ration certainly looked very scanty; but the Superintendent did not like, on his own responsibility, to increase the weight. The heads and the "plucks" were given away "free" to any that liked to ask for them at the slaughter-place.

There was very much grumbling at the meat, and two or three women and one old man returned their ration, refusing to take it. Two women returned to show pieces of meat which were diseased, and were at once given healthy meat in exchange. The issuer said that pains were taken not to serve out any meat that was diseased, but sometimes a mistake was made.

The work of the assistants did not seem well arranged, but it was obvious that they could have got on much faster if the book-keeper had not been obliged to hunt for the names and numbers in his book, and if some other person could have made the entry on the cards for him.

Many persons came with three or four tickets, and received rations for several families on one plate, but no instance occurred of any alleged mistakes in weight.

Instances were particularly noticed where the applicant brought two or three ration cards, and had the whole ration weighed together as one, and not cut up and separated. It was the first time any system of clubbing together, or sharing with each other, had been observed.

The weight given was very exact, not an ounce more or less than the prescribed amount being given. It is impossible to say how far this great

exactness was due to the presence of the Commission, but the weigher worked so quickly and skilfully that it was probably habitual.

The police (burghers) have a special and very liberal ration for themselves and their families, namely, 1 lb. of meat in addition per head per week, 1 lb. of sugar and 4 ozs. of coffee in addition per head per week.

The carpenter, although he obtained the same weight of ration as the general public, was authorised by the Superintendent to pick the better pieces of meat. This evidently gave offence, and some grumbling was heard even among the issuers.

The grocery ration is the same as that on the Transvaal scale, but raw coffee is served, and the prescribed 6 ozs. adhered to, so that the coffee, when roasted and ground, is less in quantity than the 6 ozs. of ground coffee. There was a good deal of complaint on this score in the camp among those who were otherwise quite contented.

Milk is served out mixed with boiled water. There are four stoves for boiling water standing in the open. The milk is mixed in large iron pots in a lean-to wooden shanty with earth floor unmade. The dispenser is responsible for the issue, and a man in charge under him mixes and serves it twice a day. The shed, the pots, the table, and the floor were all extremely dirty, and the whole place smelt foul and sour. The dispenser said, in excuse, that he was waiting for another and proper shed to be built. A quantity of milk tins which were found, on opening them, to contain bad milk, were thrown down, just as they were, in the shed, and were covered with a swarm of flies. The milk is served early in the morning and at mid-day. No attempt had been made to clean the pots or the floor. The condition was pointed out to the dispenser, and when the place was visited next day a slight improvement was perceptible; the bad milk tins had been removed and some chloride of lime thrown on the floor.

5. All cook in separate ovens. Iron public ovens, 12 in a batch, were put up, but are not used.

6. *Fuel.*—There is no definite fuel ration in this camp. Wood is obtained partly from the Irene estate, partly by indenting to headquarters.

Lately Mr. Esselin said he had found the people had suffered much from lack of fuel. In the week previous to that of our visit the want had been specially acute, and one day, when he found there was actually no wood left, he sent to the Commandant, who at once sent up a wagon-load, and this was immediately given away, the distribution lasting until nearly midnight.

Some wood arrived in wagons on the second day of our inspection; it was sawn up by paid workers, and those who wanted wood came and fetched as much as they could persuade the head sawyer to give them.

There were many complaints in camp of lack of fuel, and Mr. Esselin seemed to experience great difficulty in supplying it. One woman had had to cut the supports of her bed frame and burn them as fuel; we saw the frame on the ground. The lack of fuel had not been reported to Mr. Esselin by his "line corporals," and it was not until every scrap was gone that he had set about procuring more. Mr. Esselin has no resource and tact, and no settled plan of distribution.

Irene is as well placed, geographically, for the supply of wood as Johannesburg or Krugersdorp, and has the additional advantage of the proximity of the Irene estate and the station; yet, owing, to lack of method, the camp is far worse off than either of the two latter camps. Wood and coal should be regularly indented for, and a reserve stock kept in hand. The fuel should then be properly issued as a ration by weight to each family on certain days in the week, so as to ensure an equitable and regular distribution.

7. *The Slaughter-place* is 300 yards from camp in a good situation shaded by trees and well kept, except that the trough for blood had not been efficiently cleaned and the hole for offal not properly covered in with earth. A large dung heap had accumulated which should not be there at all, and there was a large pile of skins which attracted flies. Children also were allowed to play and watch the slaughtering of animals in this place.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—Mr. Esselin thought quite half the people had bedsteads. Mrs. Rendal Harris had sent 25*l.* for providing bedsteads; the man in whose hands Mr. Esselin put the matter bought 75*l.* worth of wood from Mr. Van der Byl. This rather complicated matters, and it is not quite clear how Mr. Esselin got out of the difficulty. A charge of 15*s.* is made for a bedstead. A man in camp told us he began making bedsteads on August 14th. He could make two in a day, and had made 34. He sold some and gave some away. He stated Mr. Esselin wanted him to pay for the wood. Mr. Esselin told the Commission he always gave wood gratis to any man who wanted a bedstead, on condition that he made not one but two—one for himself and one for Mr. Esselin to give away—but on these terms they would do nothing: they were not in the least inclined to help each other. If he could compel men to work he could provide bedsteads for the whole camp in a few days.

9. *Clothing.*—The ladies from Pretoria recommended cases for relief, and gifts of clothing. We visited the store where Government clothing was kept. There was a large number of the gayest possible coloured sateens, ranging from cream to all the colours of the rainbow. Also a quantity of white cloth children's gaiters, the most unsuitable things possible. It appeared as if some storekeeper must have emptied his shop of all his unsaleable stock. A Committee had been formed for recommending families who required clothing. They recommended 22, 18 of whom had fathers still on commando.

10. *Shop.*—Poynton's from Pretoria. Well stocked. The sale of Dutch medicines is prohibited, but the "Pretoria ladies" bring them out, and are also reported to bring out quantities of stores which could be bought in camp because the people prefer not to deal at a "khaki store." Letters are carried in and out of camp in the same way.

11. *Hospital.*—There are three doctors, a dispenser with two assistants, two trained and three untrained nurses, and servants. There are also the six ladies from Pretoria previously referred to, who live in camp, draw rations, and visit tents, reporting cases of sickness to the various doctors.

The hospital consists of one brick building and seven marquees, one of which is unfurnished and has never been used. There are 40 beds in all, and even at the time when sickness in camp was most rife the hospital was never full.

The rule of sending patients to hospital on doctor's orders is not enforced. The people have the usual prejudice against hospital treatment and nothing is done to overcome it. There are many cases of serious illness in the tents which would have a much better chance of recovery if admitted to hospital. Chart and diet sheets are wanted. Typhoid linen is not boiled; it is disinfected in 1 in 1,000 perchloride of mercury. It should be boiled as well. Typhoid stools are boiled in a suitable apparatus.

12. *A Camp Matron* has been appointed—Mrs. Esselin, wife of the Superintendent—but the Commission regret they cannot report that she seems to be taking up her work satisfactorily. In camps where the matron is really efficient she has her hands very full of work, especially in the morning. Either she or her staff of nurses for the lines should visit all tents daily and report cases of sickness to the doctor.

Mrs. Esselin had been in camp about a fortnight at the time of our visit. At 11 a.m., September 24th, she was sitting in a bucksail shelter doing fancy-work. On September 25th, about the same hour, she was in the same tent drinking tea and doing tambour work. Two girls were with her on the second occasion, but they were doing nothing except chatting.

13. *Ministers.*—The Rev. Richardson and the Rev. Pienaar are resident in the camp. Mr. Richardson is a University man, probably Irish; he has become very Dutch and is extraordinarily dirty. He is an enthusiastic teacher, and has a very large class of young children.

Mr. Esselin said it would be a deathblow to the Irene camp to lose Mr. Richardson.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Men, if they refuse to obey orders, can be handed over to the Commandant of the district. There is a wired-in enclosure for unruly women. When Mr. Esselin first came he had endless trouble about morals, but he had succeeded in getting some bad women sent to Natal.

15. *Education.*—The headmaster, Mr. Liebrandt, is a rebel. Mr. Richardson, chief assistant, has already been referred to. We found him teaching a huge class and addressing them wholly in Dutch, though teaching them English. He had the power of interesting the children. There were eight female assistants; 808 children's names on the books, and an average attendance of about 350.

School begins at 8.30 and lasts till 1 p.m., with half an hour's break in the morning. Mr. Richardson's class is in a large wood and iron room, and the rest of the school is in marquees.

Occupation.—The paid officials in camp (burgher police) had been increased from 12 to 50 in consequence of orders from Pretoria. Mr. Esselin complained that this increase had not been followed by any increase of efficiency.

One man and one woman each have a garden. The Superintendent intends to start a garden of his own, but although the land is most suitable for the purpose he has been unable to get any men (with one exception) to work at gardening. Mr. Esselin said, "They expect to have everything found for them without doing an ounce of work themselves." Mrs. Esselin proposes to start a sewing class. There is a little shoemaking and carpentering done in camp, but nothing is done for the benefit of the community. The men cannot be made to keep even the ground clean round their own tents. There is a football ground at the lower end of camp, near the station, where we saw a number of young fellows playing. We also saw some playing quoits.

17. *Orphans* are well cared for by their own relatives.

18. *Local Committee* of Pretoria ladies. Six are permanently resident in camp. They draw rations and have a large marquee for their mess-room and four bell tents. The Dutch Dr. Neethling messes with them. They have little or no communication with Mr. and Mrs. Esselin, and there can be little doubt their authority is antagonistic to and stronger than his in camp. They do not encourage the people to send their sick to hospital; Mr. Esselin does, but the sick remain in their tents in much larger number than is wise or right. Some of the ladies have been in camp five months. We asked them if they thought a soup kitchen would be useful; they replied in the affirmative, but they had done nothing to start one. We called on them about 3.30 in the afternoon and found them in their marquee doing knitting and crochet. They complained that Mr. Esselin did not consult them about distribution of clothes. They gave us to understand that they drew the same ration as the camp, but we found they really drew staff rations—a double quantity of meat. They said the meat was so thin that the whole of their joint ration (8 lbs.) only yielded 1 lb. of meat when separated from the bone. (N.B.—Mr. Noble, Superintendent of Johannesburg, told us he had the whole of a very thin sheep separated bone from meat with the result that $3\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of meat and bone yielded 2 lbs. of meat alone.)

The Pretoria ladies admitted in conversation that the Boer people in camp were not very willing to help one another. They complained of the burgher police, and said they were very lax in their duties. We advised that the people should get to work and make shoes, &c. They replied that it was very difficult to get leather for shoes—they did not know that leather was tanned in camp. On the whole their tone was to weep and bewail, but take no active steps to help the people to help themselves or make the best of things. They had not encouraged the people to make bedsteads or, so far as we judge, exert themselves in any way to improve their condition.

It is the opinion of the Commission that the ladies from Pretoria are a dangerous element in camp. They represent an antagonism to the authority of the Superintendent, and act as carriers and "go-betweens" between the camp and the town.

19. *The Ages of those who have Died* were, from the formation of the camp up to September 24th:—

Children under 1 year	90
,, between 1 and 5	268
,, ,, 5 and 12	104
,, over 12	90
Total	552

20. *Applications to go to Friends.*—Very few applications, and none of them have been allowed; there were so many conditions to be fulfilled.

21. *Coloured Servants.*—They are allowed and rationed too; but if rationed by Government, Government claims a right to their labour.

22. *All coffins* are made in the camp. On one occasion the Superintendent had to get wood from the Commandant. All bodies were duly shrouded and treated with respect.

This camp is not in any sense in a satisfactory condition. It has no head. The Superintendent, Mr. Esselin, is weakly amiable; he has no authority and no force of character. There are various conflicting authorities in the camp:—

(*a.*) The Committee of six ladies from Pretoria, assisted by Dr. Neethling, M.O.

(*b.*) The Dutch clergyman and the elders of his church, with whom we think may be associated Mr. Liebrandt, the schoolmaster.

Both of these offer, according to circumstances, either an active or passive resistance to the supposed authority of the Superintendent.

When a camp is working well the officials act harmoniously together and support the authority of the Superintendent. The officials at Irene are not acting harmoniously, and many of them aim, with a considerable degree of success, at undermining the authority of Mr. Esselin.

As an example, it may be mentioned that the hospital staff absent themselves from duty without asking the permission of Mr. Esselin. They obtain passes direct from the C.O.

During the two-and-a-half days the Commission spent at Irene officials repeatedly complained to them of each other. Mr. Esselin complained of the Ladies' Committee; the Ladies' Committee complained of Mr. Esselin; the Assistant Superintendent complained of the Superintendent, and so on.

Mrs. Esselin, who had held the position of camp matron for about a fortnight, appeared to have no grasp whatever of the duties of the post.

In the opinion of the Commission Mr. Esselin is not a man with power enough to contend against the difficulties of his situation. It is a sufficient condemnation of the organisation of this camp to point out that with 147 deaths in July and a daily average of 371 sick, and with 51 deaths in August and a daily average of 285 sick, the hospital of 40 beds has never been full. Mr. Esselin desires cases of serious illness to be taken to hospital, but he has not the strength to enforce his will. He declares that tent flaps should be lifted, but, to quote his words, "the women flare up and get the better" of those who order the flaps up. He desires women not to foul the ground of their tents by the throwing of slops upon them, but the women go on with their usual disregard of cleanliness, and Mr. Esselin contents himself with calling the Commission inside the tents to demonstrate how bad they smell.

A strong man is required at Irene who will sweep away the little cliques and coteries who now successfully defy the authority of the Superintendent.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, IRENE (SECOND VISIT), 12TH NOVEMBER 1901.

The Commission revisited this camp on the 12th November, and regret there is very little to note in the way of improvement since their last visit.

The tents remain, as before, far too close together. In the so-called "Laager Camp" this is particularly noticeable. Tents and wagons almost

touch one another, and were any infectious disease to break out nothing could prevent its spreading.

The block system of issuing rations had been tried, but unsuccessfully, and the old plan of allowing the issue of rations to spread over four days in the week continues in force. The result is that children, who would otherwise be profiting by the best feature of the camp, *i.e.*, the school, now spend their days loitering between the ration shed, coal yard, and slaughter ground.

Owing to the poorness of the meat, tinned beef was issued during October, but the issue of fresh meat has been resumed. Coal is now issued by weight—14 lbs. per week for an adult, and 7 lbs. for a child. There seems also to be a fair supply of wood. The floor of the butchery has been remade, and is now clean and tidy.

The milk ration is issued mixed with boiled water, the proportion being 20 tins milk to 10 gallons water. If any milk is left it is allowed to remain in the tin caldron in which it was made, and the next afternoon's supply is simply added to it. This should not be. The surplus should be put aside in a small vessel, and the boiler should be scalded out between each issue, as otherwise the whole supply may get spoiled.

The public baking ovens are not used. The Superintendent complains that as soon as he places firebricks over the iron flooring, so as to make it suitable for baking bread, the bricks are stolen for some other purpose.

About 30 kartels have been made and wood for 100 more has been indented for.

Mrs. Esselin is acting as relief matron. She has a clerk at 2*s.* 6*d.* per day to keep her books. Cases of destitution are reported to her, and she distributes Government ready-made clothing. The Commission are very sorry to see that the instructions from Pretoria that material, rather than made-up goods should be issued, are being disregarded. The last order for Government clothing consisted of 1,344 lbs. weight of undergarments for women and children, all of which could have been made in the camp. More durable and more suitable goods would ultimately have been produced, and it is better in every way to let the camp people work for themselves where it is possible. Mrs. Esselin's duties do not seem very arduous, and she ought easily to be able to apportion the material and, if need be, cut out the garments, should the recipients be unable to do so themselves.

The Commission hope that a trained camp matron will soon be appointed. In the meantime three British camp assistants (one a trained midwife) and seven young Dutch girls visit the tents to find out cases of sickness. One of these accompanies each doctor on his rounds. The doctors sign blank slips of paper, which the camp assistants can fill in with any medical comfort they think desirable, with the exception of milk and stimulants. The Commission think it would be better if all medical comforts were ordered by the doctor.

No camp garden has been started, but a few men are cultivating plots of land and selling the produce. There was a complaint that Poynton's prices were excessive, and also that they sold Dutch medicines.

The school has greatly improved and is now doing excellent work. The headmaster, Mr. Reynolds, is trained, and is both zealous and painstaking. He has 12 assistants, and he is starting normal classes for instructing and training them. He has at present six marquees, and stone shelters are being erected. There are 862 names on the register, and the average daily attendance is 80 per cent. of the total number. Miss Rothman and one assistant have the infant school with a roll of 263 children. Miss Rothman thoroughly understands and loves her work, and the way in which the children sang their action songs would have done credit to any infant school at home. A group of admiring mothers watched the proceedings from the entrance to the marquee.

Mr. Reynolds had only one complaint, but that was a most legitimate one, namely, that the fetching of rations and of kindling wood kept many a good pupil away from school.

The Commission think that under an energetic and business-like Superintendent this difficulty could easily be overcome. The school was very fairly equipped and the Commission think that both teacher and children deserve every encouragement.

The numbers in this camp has been reduced since our former visit from 4,655 to 3,991. There had been 100 deaths in October, and the rest of the reduction had been caused by migration to Natal.

Hospital.—This was in good order. The changes were:—

(1.) An additional small ward for men and boys had been made in the brick hospital.
(2.) A sitting-room connected with this ward had been fitted up for the nurses, especially the night nurses.
(3.) A better kitchen for the nursing staff had been provided.
(4.) The tents formerly occupied by the ladies from Pretoria were now occupied by the English camp assistants.

No roof ventilation had been introduced in the hospital and we fear when shut up at night, or during stormy weather, it must be very airless, especially the men's ward, which has no ventilation at one end when the nurses' door is shut.

There are nine marquees, of which five are kept for enteric patients. The maternity and measles marquees were empty, and one marquee was given up to a chronic case for whom a bell tent would have been quite large enough.

None of the patients' drinking water was boiled or filtered; in fact, there was not a filter in the hospital. This, as all the water comes from an open furrow, is a neglect of one of the most necessary precautions against enteric.

The marquees were well opened and ventilated and not overcrowded; everything has been done to give the patients plenty of pure air.

Nearly every patient in the hospital was either suffering from enteric or pneumonia, and the number of deaths in the hospital for the week ending November 7th was six, the same as for the whole of the preceding four weeks.

There was no cow's milk for the enteric patients, and the best condensed milk, "Ideal," was not always procurable. The water for mixing with the milk was always boiled, but there is only one Soyer's boiler, and until more are provided it is impossible to boil all the water used in the hospital.

The enteric sheets are disinfected with sublimate solution, but they are not boiled as there are no boilers for this purpose. The stools are boiled at a proper distance from the hospital.

There are 57 beds in this hospital, of which 11 were vacant at the time of our second visit, besides the empty maternity and measles marquees. There were 14 enteric cases and two suspects. The hospital was the best managed and cleanest part of the camp, and we regret that the drinking water did not receive the same care and attention evidently given to other things. With regard to the rations and quarters provided for the nursing staff, we were glad to find that a better scale of rations than the present one is to be introduced on the first of next month; marquees have been provided for the nurses' mess, and each nurse is to have suitable sleeping accommodation. With these improvements we feel that the staff have now no cause for complaint.

Sanitation.—Water Supply.—This is entirely, as stated before, drawn from an open furrow and pumped by a steam-engine into tanks in the camp. The furrow comes from a long distance and is fenced on both sides. It, however, needs periodical cleaning; and by the side of the railway next the line the banks should be repaired to prevent the formation of little stagnant pools connected with the furrow; small boys should not be allowed to get inside the fence as they do not conduce to the purity of the water.

Tanks.—These are now regularly cleaned, and the water looked clear, but owing to the careless use of the taps, the ground beneath them was very wet, and trenches were badly needed to carry off the waste water.

Wash-places.—These are in a very dirty and sloppy condition and smelt far from sweet. One pump was broken and the hose of the other needed attention. Many of the women were not washing at the wash-places, but had selected a little stream where children were washing tripe just above them.

Rubbish.—This was supposed to be deposited in buckets placed in the middle of the rows of tents. In reality there were little heaps of rubbish down the lines, with an often empty bucket set in the middle of the heap. Dustbins at stated intervals would be better. These little heaps of rubbish are removed by wagon to some distance.

Nothing has been done towards erecting bath-houses.

Latrines.—The defects in these pointed out at our first visit have been remedied, with one bad exception. The women's latrine at the wash-place had the same broken door, and was in the same indescribably filthy condition.

There were not enough latrine pails for the use of the camp. The storeman had been told of this a month ago.

Slaughter poles. — While standing at the wash-place our attention was drawn to a crowd of men, women and especially children a little distance away among some trees. At first it looked like a school treat or some games, but closer inspection revealed carcases of sheep hanging up among the trees, and the conclusion was forced upon us that the crowd had been attracted to witness the slaughtering of animals. Approaching the place we met a small child coming up with a bucket half full of bright red blood. Others were carrying sheep's heads, &c. Crossing a stream we found some boys and girls busy washing tripe, and what might be comprehensively termed "entrails" in the water. A little lower down was the place just referred to, where women were washing clothes in the stream. When we reached the trees, a horrid scene presented itself. Standing in the middle of a heap of nastiness was a small black girl, busy turning out paunches, and handing them to the eager children to wash. Numbers of men and women were present, but everything seemed left to the children. Just as we were turning away, sickened by the sights and smells, we noticed some of the men going to a sheep pen and bringing out some sheep. We could hardly believe that they were really going to slaughter with crowds of little children standing and sitting round. But this proved to be actually the case. A long trench had been dug; on the edge of this trench, closely packed together, squatted a line of *little girls* and boys with eager faces, holding in their hands small dishes. Across the trench were laid several sheep with throats stretched out, each held by a man. Slowly across the first throat was the knife drawn, severing the blood vessels, but far from killing the sheep. Eagerly these little children held their vessels to catch the dripping red blood, never caring for the struggles of the sheep so long as they got blood. The sight was too horrible. A member of the Commission turned on the crowd of waiting fathers and mothers surrounding the children, and delivered her soul in strong and forcible language; we then hurried from the scene, sick at heart at such a brutalising of little children. We informed Mr. Esselin of what we had seen. He assured us that the camp slaughter-place was a mile-and-a-half away, that what we had seen was the slaughter-place of the Army Service Corps. This proved to be incorrect; on leaving the Superintendent's office, we saw the wagons which had just been loaded up at the slaughter-place drive to the camp meat store and discharge its cargo, proving that the slaughtering just witnessed had been for the camp.

We feel strongly upon the evil influences on children of allowing them to take part in such scenes as the one just described. What is the good of going to great expense for the education of these children, if the moral teaching of the morning is to be counteracted by brutalizing realities in the afternoon?

The Superintendent, when seen later, said he had dismissed the butchers; but it should have been impossible for such a savagely brutal scene to take place in a professedly Christian camp under British rule.

After this second visit, the Commission again urged upon the Military Governor that the Superintendent at Irene was not fitted for his post, and he was superseded.

REPORT ON KRUGERSDORP CAMP, 28TH TO 30TH SEPTEMBER 1901.

Krugersdorp Camp was formed on 19th May. It is on an attractive site on a slope immediately below some kopjes. On September 28th, it numbered 5,408, viz.: 990 men, 2,048 women, and 2,370 children. The numbers are constantly augmenting; 15 waggon loads came in on the morning of September 28th. The Superintendent is Mr. Tomlinson; he has had charge of the camp since the beginning. He served in the war under Buller in the I.L.H., was at Spion Kop and eight other fights.

1. *Water Supply* is from natural springs in the hill on which the camp is pitched. It is all fetched by hand into the camp. There are three of these springs. There have been the usual difficulties about cleanliness. People were found throwing their ashes into the drinking-water fountain. These drinking-water places are shut up at night. They are to be closed in and lined with brick before the hot weather sets in, as a safeguard against enteric.

Washing-places.—There are 12 cemented tanks for washing clothes below the camp at a short distance from it, well supplied with water from a water furrow fitted with small sluice gates. These gates are constantly being destroyed by the people.

Four more tanks are in course of preparation. Close to these washing places are seven ordinary bell tents, each containing a zinc bath; 2 tents are for men and 5 for women and children. We were told they were much appreciated and used. It is a simple inexpensive plan of providing bath-houses, which might well be copied in other camps. There is an attendant (a woman) to keep them in order.

2. *Sanitary Arrangements.*—The "pail system," attended to by the same contractor who works for the town. The pails are emptied every day and sometimes twice a day. The latrines were clean and well kept. The pails are disinfected before being replaced. Sanitary carts remove the contents of the pails to pits at a considerable distance from town and camp.

Dust is placed in small receptacles (oil tins, &c.), and finally dug into a trench too near the camp. Care should be taken to thoroughly fill in this rubbish pit with earth and to prevent children from making it a playground. A scavenging gang of 33 boys under two foremen are employed to go round the camp and gather up all dust, empty tins, &c. daily. Wet refuse is poured into extra pails in the latrines.

3. *Housing.*—Mainly bell tents; but there are also a good number of the square Indian tents 15 by 15. The average number to a tent is five. The distance from pole to pole is 25 to 30 feet. There is considerable difficulty in getting the rule enforced for lifting tent flaps. Mr. Tomlinson looks after it himself. His personal authority is never resisted. He proposed as the enteric season was coming on to take out every alternate row of tents.

4. *Rations.*—Groceries are issued once and meat twice a week. Since the meat has been so very thin an extra weight has been given. Thus, we saw 7 lbs. given for a 4-lbs. ration and 7½ lbs. for a 5-lbs. ration. The meat then being served out was the last and worst of a flock of a 1,000 sheep which had been issued for the camp. The heads, plucks, &c. were given out to the people as extras. They will not eat ox tails, so they are served to the hospital, where they are made into soup. Milk is not part of the ordinary ration, but is served out as a medical comfort, diluted with water.

5. *Kitchens.*—There is one public oven for bread which can take 100 loaves at each baking. All the rest of the cooking is done by each family separately.

6. *Fuel.*—Each family has 50 lbs. coal and 25 lbs. wood per week. The wood comes from Pietersburg. We saw the fuel ration on Monday morning. People go to the great heap of coal and poke out their own 50 lbs. weight, carefully choosing it bit by bit, then they bring it to be weighed. We could not see what there was to prevent them getting more than their share or

coming and helping themselves without bringing the coal to the issuer to be weighed.

7. *The Slaughter-place* was in full view of the camp. It would be better to put it further away if possible. There were no trenches ready to put refuse and dead animals in if diseased. Contrary to orders, diseased hides were being kept to be cured; the place was covered with flies. Fifteen children and several dogs were at the slaughter-place. We think this should not be allowed.

8. *Bedding.*—The Superintendent thought that less than a third were sleeping on the ground. A large number of skins have been issued to the people, but this has now been stopped, as beyond a certain number they were only wasted. Anyone who wants to make a kartel can get the wood gratis on asking for it, but there is a great indisposition on the part of the people to exert themselves in any way, even to improve their own comfort. More than 1,000 blankets have been issued, but no waterproof sheets.

9. *Clothing.*—A considerable quantity has been received from private societies, 700*l.* or 800*l.* worth. Mr. Radloff, the Dutch Reformed clergyman in Krugersdorp, visited the camp and advised Mr. Tomlinson in the distribution of clothing. It is the duty of the camp matron to inquire into the wants of the people as regards clothing.

10. *Shops.*—One shop only, kept by Poynton Brothers. The prices are regulated as in the other Transvaal camps. The purchasing power of the camp is considerable. More than 5,000*l.* has been spent in three months in Poynton's Store. The camp people also come into Krugersdorp and spend money in the shops there. In one very good tool shop which we visited the man spoke bitterly of the camp women coming in and spending "money by the sovereign." He contrasted it with the position of the loyal refugees at Durban, Port Elizabeth, &c. The loyal inhabitants of Krugersdorp are not allowed to have up their wives and families, and it makes them very angry to know how much is being done for the people in concentration camps.

Mr. Tomlinson spoke of the utter absence of pride on the part of the camp people in asking for gifts, small or large. Mr. Tomlinson has a few cows of his own, and he says men with good banking accounts will think nothing of coming to ask for half a cup of milk.

11. *Hospital.*—Five E.P. tents and two marquees, containing 40 beds. 39 were full on September 28th, and 41 had to be made up by September 30th. Two more marquees for typhoid cases are to be added to the hospital at once. Cots for children had been ingeniously contrived with wire netting and hospital stretchers.

The staff consists of—

Two doctors, Messrs. Aymard and Johnstone
One certified nurse, Sister Harnett.
Four night nurses, out of the camp.
Nine day " " "
Three hospital orderlies, out of the camp.
Two dispensers and servants.
One boy.

The large number of day nurses is due to the fact that it was desirable to get several into training to be ready for work in the typhoid marquees about to be erected.

The day nurses sleep in camp, but the night nurses have a marquee within the hospital lines. One doctor and one dispenser also sleep within the hospital fence.

Mrs. Harnett, the hospital matron, takes a keen interest in her work, and manages her Boer assistants well. These girls looked very smart in their neat blue uniforms, and, what was better, they were trying to be nurses, and were proud of their wards.

The only important mistake about this hospital is that it is too closely hemmed in by the camp. It is neither good for the hospital nor safe for the camp, and the removal of a considerable number of tents is promised so as to leave a clear space between the hospital and the camp.

The typhoid marquees about to be erected are to be placed quite away from the others, and with a separate kitchen.

There is an out-patient department at the dispensary which doctors attend twice a day. There is also a tent-to-tent visitation throughout the camp carried out by camp nurses to discover cases of sickness.

The enforced removal of serious cases of illness to hospital is well carried out in this camp, and Dr. Aymard gave it as his dictum that the larger the hospital the lower will be the death-rate. Dr. Aymard, P.M.O., takes a great pride in his work. Two operations which were done during the visit of the Commission were carried out with all the care shown in a first-rate hospital.

It was to this hospital that in July last the unfortunate children were brought, whose mother had painted them with common green oil paint as a remedy for measles. There were three of these children, one died in the tent; the other two were brought into hospital, but their lives could not be saved. They died from the effect of arsenical poisoning. Not content with painting their bodies, the mother had, in the case of one child, added a plaster of American cloth thickly daubed with the same paint. The nurses told us that it was very common among the Boers to tar a patient's feet as a remedy for fever. Dog's blood was recommended for fits and so on. The nurses spoke of one case where a child in a tent was in a high fever (temperature 104) from measles. The mother utilised the heat thus generated by putting the bread, which she had just made, *inside* the child's bed to cause it to rise.

During the visit of the Commission a girl was brought into hospital ill from the effects of swallowing a quantity of Reckitt's blue as a medicine. In another case a request was made for pig's manure to administer as a medicine to a child. There can be no doubt that the love of these people for horrible messes which they use as medicine, together with habitual want of cleanliness in person and clothing, has a great deal to do with the high rate of mortality among the children.

12. *A Camp Matron* investigates cases which need gifts of clothing. She also distributes medical comforts on the doctor's orders. She visits tents and reports to the doctors. To the activity of the band of camp nurses during the epidemic the Superintendent attributes the low mortality at that time.

The soup kitchen had been started before the epidemic. This also had its share in keeping down the mortality.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—There is no clergyman resident in the camp, but the Rev. Radloff, of Krugersdorp, comes into camp and conducts services, &c. Mr. Botha, who is a sort of lay preacher in the camp—"a very good man, one of the best I know"—has a Sunday school of 600 children, and exercises a good influence over the people. We visited Mr. Botha. He gave us an account of the epidemic; he had had no sickness among his own children, who had been in camp throughout. He persuaded the people of the benefits of the hospital, and had also advised them to send their children to school. We saw an assembly of the Sunday school on Monday morning, about 600 children, clean, orderly, well-dressed, and healthy. They sang hymns, Mr. Botha accompanying them on the harmonium. They assembled in an immense tent formerly used by the Boers at Paardekraal Festivals. A good many of the parents came in to hear the children sing; and as some of them were passing the Superintendent pointed out a woman who had violently resisted her child being taken to hospital, and had thought the child was sure to die if it was washed. She was quite reconciled now.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Mr. Tomlinson has never had any difficulty about discipline. He once had a little difficulty with an unruly woman, but it was all over in a few minutes. If a woman persists in fouling her tent she is taken before the magistrate and is liable to have a week in jail. Any really bad woman he would send away to be dealt with by the civil magistrate.

15. *Education.*—We did not see the school, as it was holiday time. The Superintendent goes round himself and persuades parents of the advantages of education. He said, "If you once get their confidence, they will do any mortal thing."

16. *Occupations.*—Bricks are made and some shoemaking and carpentering. Mr. Tomlinson has got a capital piece of ground near the river for a garden. The produce of this is reserved for the hospital at present. Potatoes, cabbages, and peas were coming on. The Superintendent had planted 1,100 cabbages. Only one man had applied for a garden of his own, and he meant to sell the produce.

The Superintendent said he intended to make the young fellows work, and that he had splendid soil for a garden.

17. Orphans are taken charge of by their own relatives.

18. No local committees. Mrs. Radloff, wife of the clergyman, was very useful.

19.

Month.	Under 1.	1–5.	5–12.	Over 12.	Total.
May	2	—	—	—	2
June	2	3	1	1	7
July	3	14	1	3	21
August	27	67	19	17	130
September	28	67	9	13	117
Total	62	151	30	34	277

20. A good many people have obtained permission to live in town with their relations.

21. Servants are allowed, and are rationed on a slightly lower scale than the ordinary refugees. Those who are rationed by Government do a certain amount of Government work.

22. Coffins and shrouds have been provided in all cases. Burials take place in the town cemetery. We visited the mortuary; it was extremely neat and orderly.

General Remarks.

The Superintendent told us that there was a club and tea room for men in camp, and there had also been at one time a musical society formed chiefly of men from Green Point.

We noticed a curious instance of the indisposition of the people to help one another. About noon on Monday, September 30th, we came across a family which had arrived in camp early that morning. They were waiting for their tent and had had nothing to eat since they arrived. Not a single creature in camp had offered them bite or sup of anything. They were sitting on their bits of furniture, a boy of 13 smoking a cigarette. They told us they had been 13 days *en route*, eight of which had been spent in a military camp.

In one very smartly furnished tent with carved oak and red velvet chairs the women had chickens and guinea pigs inside, the latter of which she was feeding on raw carrots. She was very cheerful and conversational, and said she had plenty of chickens when she first came to camp, but "though they "only had two feet to start with, in camp they quickly got four." This meant they were stolen. She had three or four cows and a little calf tethered to the tent outside.

There was a ginger-beer booth; at 4 o'clock the man who kept it told us he had sold 40 bottles at 6*d.* a-piece, and he said a cask of "ginger-pop" cost 4*s.*; a very fair profit for one afternoon.

Recommendations.

(1.) The boggy ground should be drained and converted into a garden.

(2.) Clear away the tents in the immediate vicinity of the hospital, and supply the hospital with another filter.

(3.) Remove the slaughter-place further from camp.

Forbid the resort of children to it. Bury the hides of diseased animals. Improve the trenches for burying offal and the pit into which the blood is drained.

Use chloride of lime to purify the ground, and erect a shelter for carcasses.

(4.) Adopt the "block" system for rations.

Recommendations respecting the safe-guarding of the water supply, the wash-places, and the disposal of rubbish were verbally made to the Superintendent, who promised to attend to these matters, and who also informed us that he would increase the space between the tents by taking out some of the lines.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, POTCHEFSTROOM, 30TH SEPTEMBER TO 2ND OCTOBER 1901.

The camp was moved about a month ago from land quite close to the station to a much better site about 1½ miles distant from it. The surrounding country is green and garden-like. It is well watered, and all kinds of garden produce were growing in abundance. The camp was removed from the first site because it was much too damp. It was on a level with the river, and after rain the ground became sodden and drainage was impossible. The present site is on a good slope. The camp is well laid out with very wide roadways (60 yards wide) forming a Maltese cross, and dividing the camp into four distinct sections.

There are 4,900 people in camp, and 2,730 being rationed in the town. The Superintendent is Mr. Swart.

Water Supply.—Water is brought from the Mooi river in a furrow 3 or 4 feet broad, which begins at a place half a mile up the stream and runs along the lower part of the slope on which the camp is pitched. The bottom of the furrow is black muddy earth, and the fall is less rapid than that of the river; here and there we saw the green slimy growth only formed in very slow-moving water. At certain places along its banks the ground is trampled down by animals coming to drink in it. We found bones and skulls of oxen, old tins, old boots, and rubbish in the muddy bottom. It is supposed to be patrolled daily by Boer police, but it was evident that this is not efficiently done. Where the furrow enters and leaves the camp two barbed wires are stretched across to prevent people or animals walking up it. The water as it flows through the camp is dark and dirty; and here, too, we found old tins, paper, old boots, a dead crab, &c. had been thrown into it. The people are prohibited from filling their buckets except from the centre of the little foot-bridges which cross the furrow. We watched numbers filling their pails, but in no instance did they do so from the bridge. We noticed a woman—one of a party which was accompanied by the Boer police patrol—filling from the bank and trampling clods of earth into the furrow as she did so. The current is slow, and the slightest movement stirs up the soft black mud from the bottom.

A woman was seen washing clothes in the furrow and another was doing so on the bank. A large dog was bathing in it.

The Boer police are elderly men, who declared it was impossible to prevent the people polluting the water, especially at night. The surface drainage from the camp flows down the steep slope into the furrow. In every way the condition of this water supply is unsatisfactory.

Disposal of Refuse.—There are a number of old tins used as rubbish receptacles. These are emptied daily on certain heaps round the camp within the ring-fence. There are 12 of these, and they are not enclosed and are much too scattered. A gang of natives is constantly employed shovelling the heaps into two large shallow carts, but they cannot make the round under two days. The carts are unsuitable. A great deal of the rubbish spills out as they move about.

A very bad plan has been introduced of using the rubbish to fill up large depressions in the surface of this new camping ground. Two large depressions, one near the entrance and one near the lying-in tent (above the furrow), are thus filled up; the latter accumulation smelt horribly, and contained old milk tins, bits of meat, and offal. These are eventually to be covered with gravel, but they are already filled up quite level, and an inch or two of gravel

will quickly be washed down the slope towards the furrow by the first heavy storm.

Waste and slop-water is thrown into the river or on to the camp ground.

Sanitation.—The "pail system." The contents are carted away twice a day by a gang of natives under a Boer overseer. There are only 65 pails for women and children, 23 for men, 4 for natives, and 12 slop-pails. The screens in front of the latrines do not sufficiently protect all the occupants from view. Many of the latrines were in a dirty condition, partly due to the fact that the accommodation is inconveniently high for little children. Very little disinfectant is used. The ground round some of the latrines was fouled; also the space between the last row of tents and the fence on two sides of the camp.

Washing of Clothes is done in the Mooi river, which flows below the furrow. The water falls over a stony bottom with deep pools and large projecting stones, which the women like and find convenient.

The ground between the furrow and the river is very boggy. Some stony paths should be made, as the women can only reach the river-bank by tramping ankle-deep in bog.

Bath-houses.—There are none. A bath-house is to be arranged for women. The men bathe in the river.

3. *Housing.*—Mainly bell tents; there are, however, about 100 of the square Indian tents 15 by 15, and also a few reed houses built by the people themselves. These are much cooler than tents, and more roomy and commodious in every way. It is a pity that the number cannot be increased, but the reeds by the side of the river have been cut down or burnt for military reasons to destroy cover, so that the supply of reeds is now very limited. The average number in a tent is about five: flaps are ordered up every day from 9 to 4; and the rule, we are told, is really enforced. If the flaps are not up by 10 o'clock the pole of the tent is drawn.

4. *Rations.*—Rations are issued every day but Saturday; a weekly ration to different sections of the camp. The Superintendent has been issuing corned beef lately owing to the ordinary meat being so very poor and thin. No extra allowance of coffee is issued in consequence of its being served unroasted. The ration of corned beef is 2 lbs. for an adult and 1 lb. for a child. The Superintendent was beginning to issue a ration of vegetables from the camp garden, lettuces, cabbages, beetroot, &c. The day we were there was the third on which vegetables had been issued. The issue of rations begins at 6 o'clock and is over by 9 or 10. Subjoined is given a copy of the ration card:

Aletta Labuschagne.

Children, 2 under 6.	31½	lbs. flour.
Adults, 3.	3½	„ sugar.
13 lbs. meat.	1½	„ coffee.
(This applies to fresh meat.)	1	„ salt.
	4	„ rice.

Tinned milk mixed with water was issued to all children under 3. The people had no cattle of their own, and no pigs; only a few fowls. Cow's milk was reserved for hospital. The Superintendent said the hospital got as much cow's milk as the matron considered necessary; the matron, however, said the hospital only received four bottles a day, and she would be very glad to have more.

5. *Kitchens.*—There is a soup kitchen from which soup is given out daily. Ten sheep are now supplied daily for the soup kitchen. When meat is being slaughtered for the whole camp, the necks are reserved for the soup kitchen. There are six boilers for making this soup; 15 big buckets of 4 gallons each = 60 gallons, are made and given away daily to sick and aged people and convalescents. The meat out of the soup is also given away. Potatoes and beans are put into this soup twice a week. The milk-mixing and serving was going on at the same time as the distribution of the soup. The pails and place where the milk was served was beautifully clean; but the milk is not

(as it should be) mixed with boiled water; 8 tins of sweetened milk, or 12 tins of "Ideal," are allowed to each bucket. There was a very competent woman in charge of the milk-distribution, and the camp nurses came up to assist in the distribution, to see that the right people got it. With the exception of the soup kitchen, all the cooking in camp is done separately by each family.

6. *Fuel.*—3 lbs. of coal in a day and 1 lb. of wood per head. The store of coal in camp was protected by a barbed-wire fence. The wood ration is not weighed; the amount is judged by the eye.

7. *Slaughter-place.*—Meat was being killed for the hospital and soup kitchen only at the date of our visit. All the rest of the camp was getting tinned meat. The slaughter-place is quite new and well arranged. The holes for offal are being dug, below the water furrow, very narrow and deep.

8. *Bedding.*—Mr. Swart thought half of the people were without any kind of bedstead, but he had ordered a lot of wood for kartels. 4,350 Government blankets had been served out, also 1,000 from the Netherlands Society and 150 from a society in Capetown. In the winter a large number of skins had been served out, but this had been stopped because it was found that a regular trade had been established to sell these skins to Jews in Johannesburg. No waterproof sheets had been issued. A good many of the people had made themselves mattresses with sacks filled with straw. A number of kartels had been made in camp.

9. *Clothing.*—A large issue was being made at the date of our visit; 30 to 40 people a day were receiving a regular outfit. There is no store of Government stuff, but on the recommendation of the camp matron, endorsed by the Superintendent, who investigates the applications for clothing, an order is given for so many yards of material, flannelette, calico, stockings, boots, &c., from Poynton's Store. Mr. Swart said there was great need of clothing. The flour bags were given away for underclothing, and are very useful.

10. *Shop.*—Poynton's only, and the same arrangement is made as described in other camps. The cash taken is about 50*l.* or 60*l.* a day. Anyone spending more than 1*l.* at once must be reported to the Superintendent. The usual things were in the shop—dates, sardines, bottled fruits, men's suits, golden syrup, &c.

11. *Hospital.*—The hospital staff consists of Dr. Dixon, P.M.O., district surgeon, who takes charge of hospital and refugees in town. He resides there. Dr. Bird also resides in town; has charge of half the camp lines. Dr. Burgers, who has just been dismissed, did the other half. Another doctor has been sent for and will reside in camp.

Nurses.—One certified nurse as matron.
Three local assistants for day.
Two ditto night and servants.
Two trained dispensers.

The nurses have to carry out the dead from the hospital.

The hospital is in an old church in the town which had not even been whitewashed before being put to its present use. The windows are not made to open, so the only means of ventilating it is to remove some of the panes of glass. The openings thus made are covered by pieces of tin, which can be taken in or out at pleasure. In the daytime the large door of the church stands open and keeps the building fairly fresh; but when this is shut at night the place must be very stuffy, as there is no ventilation in the roof.

Besides the church, which is used for women and children, there is a marquee for men, and another could be put up if necessary. The total number of beds which can be put up is 36. There were only 19 patients in the hospital, though the camp and town contained together 7,600 Boers receiving rations.

The matron said that the people often put off coming to the hospital till recovery was practically hopeless; consequently the hospital returns show a

very high death-rate; 163 patients have passed through the hospital in eight months, and of these 46 have died, or one in 3½, a death-rate almost equal to that of plague among Europeans.

The vestry of the church had been divided into two, and half is used as a mess-room and half as a kitchen. The mess-room walls were very dirty and the floor was far from clean. The new matron, Mrs. Rogers, was converting a marquee into a mess-room, in order to get some freshness and coolness for the nurses.

The Mortuary was used as a receptacle for soiled linen, which lay about upon the floor.

The Typhoid sheets are neither boiled nor disinfected. They are simply washed in cold water.

There are no separate pails for typhoid, &c.

The drinking water for patients is neither boiled nor filtered.

The hospital was badly supplied with fresh milk (four bottles daily); it was also short of fresh meat and vegetables, although there are now plenty in the camp garden. Mr. Swart gave the Commission a large basket of vegetables, and a gift from these was all that reached the hospital in two days. The supply of fuel was unsatisfactory.

There are two marquees in the camp for midwifery, attended by a midwife. The tarpaulin floor of the one in use at the time of our visit was never washed. There was only one patient on October 1st; there had been five in September and 10 in August. With the exception just mentioned there was no hospital accommodation at all in the camp, no resident doctor or dispenser, and no certified nurse; in fact, no member of the staff, medical or lay, lives on the camp side of the river.

There is a considerable amount of sickness in camp, and much fever, which Dr. Bird said was not enteric. There were also two advanced cases of cancrum oris, each isolated in a separate tent. There had been 11 (?) deaths in camp from this disease, and it is feared that other cases are commencing. Measles is still very prevalent. It is to be hoped that the abundant supply of vegetables now obtainable may improve the general health of the camp.

12. *The Camp Matron* in this camp does nothing else but investigate cases needing clothing. She is from East London. There are 22 *camp nurses*, mainly young married women, who wear a distinctive dress and receive 1*s.* a day; they visit from tent to tent each day, and report in half the camp to a man and in the other to a woman, who in their turn report to the two doctors. They distribute medical comforts, and help in the distribution of soup and milk. They appear very active and efficient.

13. There is no minister resident in camp; but one from the town, Reverend Murray, visits the camp daily. A Sunday school is conducted by people from the town.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—No difficulty about these. Mr. Swart sometimes fines boys out of their earnings, and sometimes hands them over to their parents for punishment. He had never required a wired-in enclosure.

15. *Education.*—There are three schools in town and one in the camp which are all attended by camp children. A second school shelter was now being put up in camp, as the school had become very popular. Mr. Bellairs, General Superintendent for the district, lives in Potchefstroom, and takes great interest in the school. We visited the school and found the head teacher and his assistants very enthusiastic about their work. The school has only been started a fortnight. There are 362 on the books and an average attendance of 345. If a scholar is absent the schoolmaster sends to inquire the reason. He does not allow the sending of the children for rations to be offered as a valid excuse for absence from school. Great attention has been paid to drilling, both for boys and girls. The children did quite elaborate evolutions in the open air.

16. *Occupations.*—There is some carpentering and shoemaking done in camp. We visited the carpenter's shop and found a kartel which had just been completed. Every able-bodied man, the Superintendent said, got some

sort of paid employment in camp; a few work for the military. A scavenging gang of boys is sent round the camp once a week to clean up. They are paid 6*d*. a day. There is a most splendid camp garden, about 13 acres in extent, and full of beautiful vegetables; 350 yards by 80 is sown with potatoes. Green peas, beetroot, cabbages, cauliflowers, lettuces, carrots, &c. all ready. Tomatoes coming on. There is plenty of green fodder for transport. The garden pays for itself; when it has done that, Mr. Swart said "I have a free hand in giving things to my people." He is getting the land for nothing, and he says it could easily bear a rent of 100*l*. a year.

In mentioning occupations the number of Boer girls trained as camp nurses, local assistants in hospital, and as teachers in the school, must not be forgotten.

17. *Orphans.*—Only in one case has Mr. Swart had to pay a woman for looking after a family of orphans; they are generally taken care of by their relatives.

18. *Local Committees.*—There was one formerly, but it was not much good. However, they gave some help at the time of the starting of the soup kitchen, although they did not initiate it. The Committee has broken up.

19. *Ages of those who have Died*:—

Deaths.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
March	2	—	9	11
April	4	5	15	24
May	7	7	42	56
June	9	20	206	235
July	6	18	109	133
August	9	27	38	94
September	6	15	73	94
TOTAL	43	92	492	647

20. Very few have asked leave to go; only two instances.

21. Servants are allowed and are rationed.

22. In all instances corpses have been properly cared for, shrouded and coffined.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Hospital in the Church.

(1.) Have the windows made to open.

(2.) Whitewash the church and vestry, housing the patients in marquees while this is being done.

(3.) Empty and disinfect the latrine pails twice daily, and remove the rubbish heap.

(4.) Disinfect and boil the typhoid sheets; keep the typhoid excreta separate.

(5.) Give an extra bell tent for soiled linen and a proper receptacle to put it in.

(6.) Supply the hospital with two Soyer stoves (large size), fresh vegetables daily, and fresh meat as often as possible; increase the supply of fresh milk, and give better fuel.

Camp, Urgent.

(8.) Erect at least two hospital marquees in the camp. One other good doctor and certified nurse and a dispenser should be supplied without delay.

These should *live in* camp, and proper accommodation should be provided for them.

(9.) All cases of fever, whether enteric or not, should be nursed in hospital and not in the tents.

(10.) Plenty of vegetables should be put in the soup-kitchen soup

(11.) The condensed milk should be mixed *twice* a day with boiled water, and distributed morning and evening.

(12.) The water furrow to be thoroughly cleaned, and fenced both sides with proper wire-fencing.

(13.) On entering camp the water to be carried in pipes (over surface) instead of furrow to a tank or to an outlet tap, and distributed by water carts.

(14.) Boilers and cooling tanks for all the drinking water in camp are absolutely necessary.

(15.) No rubbish to be used for filling up depressions or holes in camp.

(16.) A proper Scotch cart to be provided and rubbish more promptly removed right out of camp.

(17.) Rubbish heaps to be kept within definite bounds by a low horseshoe-shaped stone wall, or corrugated iron.

(18.) Active capable men employed as police for water supply and rubbish heaps, not old incompetent men.

(19.) A good deal more latrine accommodation to be provided. Low seats for children. Pails periodically tarred. More chloride of lime used; floors sloped outwards. Screens enlarged and painted "For Women," &c.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, KLERKSDORP, 3RD TO 5TH OCTOBER 1901.

The Klerksdorp camp is quite close to the railway line, and practically joins the village. The court-house has been turned into the hospital, and the State school has become the school of the camp. The camp is beautifully laid out; the space from pole to pole is 15 yards. The system of numbering is excellent; every row running north and south bears the same number, and every row running east and west the same letter of the alphabet; so that if you know the number and letter you can exactly locate any tent. The camp is also extremely well trenched. The Superintendent is Mr. H. W. Howard; he lives about 400 yards from the camp, in a small house.

The numbers in camp on 4th October 1901 were: Men, 438; women, 1,475; children, 1,998—3,911. Living in town: Men, 50; women, 133; children, 141—324. Totals: Men, 488; women, 1,608; children, 2,139. Grand total, 4,235. Boys and girls over 12 are classed in the above as men and women.

1. *The Water Supply* is scanty. The two covered-in pump-wells suck nearly dry by the afternoon, and then there is nothing but the polluted river-water for drinking. Another well is being dug, but is not quite finished. Even when this is completed the supply of drinking water will be limited. It should be analysed from time to time.

River-water is pumped into tanks above the washing-place, but below the place where water from the irrigating furrows flowing over manured fields falls into the river. These tanks supply the lower side of the camp, and the people drink it, although it is far from clean; consequently there is much diarrhœa in the camp.

The Washing of Clothes is done in the river at selected places. The hospital washing is not separated from the rest. There are no bath-houses, but the Superintendent is intending to have some put up.

2. *Sanitation.*—The "pail system," under the local sanitary contractor. The pails are emptied twice daily and disinfected with chloride of lime. 12 latrines for women, with 127 pails; five latrines for men and boys, with 41 pails; and 16 extra slop-buckets or one pail for every 28 women and children and one pail for 12 men and boys.

The women's latrines, with one exception, were clean and in good order. Plenty of chloride of lime was used. The camp was very clean, and the veldt was also clean, except near the ash-pits. The river-banks are not clean.

Dust-heaps are enclosed on three sides by galvanised iron, but the camp people do their best to render them useless by depositing their rubbish just short of the enclosure. There are six of these bins—three at the top and three at the bottom of the camp. At the left lower corner, outside the camp, there was a large hole into which a quantity of rubbish had been taken by wagons; a dead ox lay there uncovered. No earth had been thrown in to cover the rubbish in this hole.

Slop-water.—There are slop buckets in the latrines, but ordinary slop-water seems to be thrown out upon the ground.

3. *Housing.*—Nearly all in bell tents. There are, however, about 25 of the square Indian tents. The average number in a tent is 4½. The greatest trouble has been experienced in enforcing the rule about the lifting of tent flaps. The Superintendent withdraws the meat ration for a day or two as the punishment for disregarding this rule. The tents, generally speaking, were clean and tidy.

(4.) *Rations.*—The following copy of a ration card may be of interest:—

Number of persons in family, 4.

Flour	38 lbs.	8 ozs.
Coffee	1 „	8 „
Salt	1 „	—
Sugar	4 „	8 „
Rice	3 „	8 „

The meat ration was served on a different day.

The issue of rations is extremely well and quickly done in this camp. There is a separate group of issuers for every article, and a separate set of scales and weights. One quarter of the camp is rationed on each of four days in the week. The people come in a regular order which they have established among themselves, so that each family knows within a quarter of an hour or so at what time it should come and receive rations. They wait outside the door of the ration stores; three only are admitted at once, and when served they pass out at another door. We timed several of these groups of three, and from the time they entered to the time they left the issuing store was often as little as 2½ minutes. The issue of rations begins at 6 and is over by 12 with an hour's interval for breakfast. The head storeman is Mr. Harvey. Mr. Howard said he had never kept a store and Mr. Harvey had, so he had entrusted the system of issuing rations to Mr. Harvey. The wood and coal rationing was done in a similar orderly and rapid manner.

In addition to the official rations, every family was receiving a 1-lb. box of Quaker oats, which have been supplied as a gift by Mr. Schultz's Committee in Cape Town. This society had also sent peas and beans. The residue of their gift was being stored in a large empty store in the town; it comprised dessicated soup, flower and vegetable seeds, leather for boots, suits of men's clothing, &c. Two suits of cloth clothes had been allotted to two men a fortnight ago, but they had not troubled to come and fetch them. The gifts of grocery had, however, been very much appreciated. We did not see an issue of meat rations, but Mr. Howard says he gives an extra weight when the meat is very poor or thin as it is at present. Mr. Howard has a camp garden or farm, and now has 21 acres under green barley. He has not yet issued a ration of vegetables to the camp. Pumpkins and mealies are being grown. The hospital is liberally supplied.

5. *Kitchens.*—A soup kitchen has been established, with three large pots for making soup. Only one of these is now in use. The people do not seem to care much for it. We saw the soup and it looked and smelt very good; rice and vegetable were put in the soup. Two public bakehouses had been built; one had been converted into the soup kitchen and the other into a shoemaker's shop. With the exception of the soup kitchen, all the cooking is done separately by each family.

6. *Fuel.*—2 lbs. coal for adult and 1½ lbs. for children per day, and some wood not weighed, are given. Six large truckloads are brought in weekly from the district between Potchefstroom and Klerksdorp.

7. *The Slaughter-place* is about a quarter of a mile from the camp near the river. There are two Boer men in charge, who certainly do not know how to keep things clean. There was no trench for the blood which was covered with flies. Offal was lying on the ground. There were marks of old trenches; one of these was half filled in, with all sorts of remains sticking out of it; it smelt horribly.

8. *Bedding.*—Mr. Howard said quite two-thirds of the people were without any sort of bedstead. He had recently received instructions to get wood for kartels. He had issued about 800 blankets, but no waterproof sheets.

9. *Clothing.*—The camp matron, Miss Moritz, investigates applications for clothing. On her recommendation the Superintendent signs an order on Poynton's Store. Mr. Rundel Harris had sent two cases of clothing, and Mr. Schultz's Committee from Cape Town had sent 110 packages with miscellaneous contents ranging from blankets to everlasting flowers and dates. They had sent clothes enough for 150 people.

Two members of the Commission went round with the camp matron in the morning and afternoon of October 4th. Their account of their visit is annexed at the end of this report.

10. *Shops.*—Poynton's Store, under the usual regulations. The purchasing power of the camp used to be about 30*l.* to 40*l.* a day, but has not been so much lately. It has been difficult to keep the shop supplied owing to inability to get things up by railway. When we visited the store it was fairly full of both goods and customers. Sardines, lemon syrup, bottled fruits, pearl barley, oatmeal, sweets, pickles, looking glasses, tables, and other furniture were among the things noted.

11. *Hospital.*—The Exchange building just outside the camp has been taken over as the hospital at a rental of 10*l.* a month. There are at present 35 beds and 29 patients; the beds could be increased to 35. The building is very well adapted for its present purpose; there is one large ward, 54 feet by 33 feet, and a number of smaller rooms, each taking two beds. The hospital is admirably arranged by Miss Horswell, the matron; she has six local assistants and one night nurse.

The typhoid linen is all disinfected in a solution of 1 in 20 carbolic, but not boiled. It is taken straight away and washed in the river-water; there is a destructor for typhoid stools. All drinking water used in the hospital is boiled.

The medical staff consists of Dr. Scott Russell, P.M.O. and D.S., who resides in town, Dr. Cousins, and two dispensers. Dr. Russell has an out patients department attended daily by those refugees who live in town.

Dr. Cousins has also an outpatients department in the camp dispensary which he attends daily.

There is a good dispensary adjoining the hospital, well stocked with drugs and medical comforts.

Dr. Cousins has charge of the camp. The camp local assistants visit all the tents daily and report cases of sickness to the camp matron, Miss Moritz. She takes the list to Dr. Cousins, who then visits the cases in their tents accompanied by Miss Moritz. Dr. Cousins reports all serious cases every Thursday to Dr. Russell, who then visits them if requested by the doctor-in-charge. Every Friday Dr. Cousins gives Dr. Russell a full list of all sick on that day. Dr. Russell visits the camp on his own account every now and then. Dr. Russell was in sole charge till the beginning of September. There were two or three cases of scarlet fever and seven of diphtheria some time ago, all of which were isolated by Dr. Russell. One case of diphtheria occurred six days ago. The tent was not isolated, beyond putting a guard to prevent people going in and out. No spread of the disease has as yet taken place.

A marquee in the camp is used as a mortuary, and is very orderly and well kept. There is also a bell tent used as a mortuary for the hospital, which is equally satisfactory in all respects.

Miss Horswell gives a very satisfactory account of the local assistants. They are interested in their work and have an earnest wish to improve. She gives each of them two hours off duty every day and half a day once a

month. The local assistants mess with the matron; she thinks it has a good influence over them, and introduces them to a more civilised style of living. A camp girl waits on the hospital staff; a sister of this girl who comes to fetch her every evening shows a great readiness to turn her hand to any work which may be going forward. This girl washes for the matron, and, unsolicited, sends home the things *mended* as well as washed. Like all other matrons and nurses in the camps, Miss Horswell spoke of the extraordinarily filthy habits of the patients when they first came in: the first business of the nurses is to clean them.

12. *Camp Matron.*—The excellent work of Miss Moritz, the camp matron, has been referred to. She is assisted by a band of 12 camp nurses—not young girls; several of them are married women.

There is an experienced midwife in camp, who is very competent and knows when it is necessary to call in the doctor. At the suggestion of the Commission the Superintendent had promised to provide two kartels to be lent to women for their confinements.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—The Rev. Coetzee, from Wolmaranstad, visits the camp daily.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—The only punishment Mr. Howard has resorted to has been the suspension for a day or two of meat rations. But a wired-in enclosure is being put up. 164 "undesirables" and wives and children of men still on commando were sent away to Natal on October 3rd. Mr. Howard thinks this will have a good disciplinary effect. He has had very little difficulty in regard to morals. One family—a bad lot—he sent away from camp altogether, after putting up with them for seven weeks.

15. *Education.*—The schoolmaster is Mr. Hesse, a German; he lives in town, but draws rations. His wife is very bitter against the English. There are 15 teachers, the majority of whom are Dutch, and several have a very imperfect knowledge of English. The school was not in session on the date of our visit; but it was assembled especially for our benefit. The principal school-house is the old State School. It contains good classrooms, pictures, blackboards, and other educational machinery. There are besides two marquees and a small chapel in the town. Mr. Hesse is a trained schoolmaster, and he started the school on his own account on April 1st, the Government taking it over on May 1st.

The total number of admissions are - - -	920
Withdrawals from beginning - - -	225
Numbers now on books - - - - -	695

The withdrawals are caused by the removal of people from camp, and by deaths.

The numbers are made up as follows:—

Scholars out of camp—Boys 237, girls 237 - -	474
„ „ town „ 101 „ 120 - -	221
	695

Mr. Hesse is an enthusiastic teacher. He has drawn up a good set of rules for the guidance of his assistants. He visits from tent to tent, persuading parents of the benefits of education. The children looked robust, clean, well-dressed and intelligent. Mr. Hesse wants two more marquees for his school. He evidently knows how to influence the children, for he told us that the ant-heap floors in the two marquees had been put in by the boys without payment. We have come to look upon it as a remarkable thing if the Boer will do anything without being paid. Altogether this school was a cheerful feature in the camp; but the Commission was disappointed to find two or three of the teachers who were hardly able to speak a word of English, and who understood it still less when spoken. We think this should be looked into.

16. *Occupations.*—Brickmaking, shoemaking, and carpentering are done in camp. 158 Boer men and women are paid wages varying from 3*s.* 6*d.* a day to 10*s.* a month. This need not be grudged if they do their work well; but unless the eye of the Superintendent is constantly on them there is a great tendency to take the wages and do little or nothing to replace them in value. The garden is an important feature of this camp, and the produce from it ought to be very valuable in improving the health of the people. It should be particularly mentioned, especially after what has just been said about the way in which burghers will receive wages and do little or nothing for them, that General Andries Cronje, who is resident in the camp, gives very valuable unpaid assistance in the management of the garden. Mr. Howard said of him, "He is the best Dutchman in South Africa."

17. *Orphans* are taken charge of by their relatives.

18. *A Local Committee* has been formed of refugees resident in town. Mr. Howard said they had been very useful and had assisted him in various ways.

19. The mortality statistics of this camp are remarkable. The camp was started towards the end of January 1901. There were no deaths until the 2nd April. Two infants under three years of age died in April.

8	deaths	took place in	May.
15	,,	,,	June.
38	,,	,,	July.
179	,,	,,	August.
147	,,	,,	September.

The immense majority of these deaths were those of young children from measles and pneumonia.

Women asking for permission to Leave.—Very few had asked leave to go away, and when they did go the result was unsatisfactory. Their friends got tired of supporting them.

21. Servants are allowed, but are not rationed and not allowed to sleep in camp. It was discovered that servants were being used to convey provisions to the Boers on commando.

22. The right thing was always done in providing shrouds and coffins. This is now in the camp matron's department.

Recommendations.

Hospital Accommodation.—It was obvious from the number of deaths and the amount of sickness in this camp during the last two months that the hospital accommodation is quite inadequate. There are a number of cases of serious illness now in the tents which cannot be removed to hospital for want of accommodation. The Commission, accompanied by the Superintendent and the P.M.O., visited several empty buildings in the town to see if they could find anything suitable for use as a hospital. They strongly recommend the taking over of the Central Hotel for this purpose. It contains 3 large rooms on the ground floor, a place which could form a dispensary, a large basement, and a number of rooms with a balcony on the first floor; 36 beds could be put up besides, affording accommodation for staff. Colonel Roche, Commandant of the district, gave his consent to the taking over of this house as a hospital. It is now empty, and we understand has never been occupied, except occasionally. It is in good substantial repair, and the necessary cleaning, &c. could be accomplished in about a fortnight's time at an estimated cost of 15*l.* In the meantime, if the need is urgent, one or two marquees could be temporarily used for hospital purposes.

(2.) Reduce, if possible, the number in this camp. The supply of good water is not adequate. The wells should not be locked at night sooner than is absolutely necessary.

(3.) Move the pump in the river higher up above the manured fields, to the place where the military take their water.

(4.) Boil all drinking water in big boilers, and serve out a definite supply every day to each tent. It will be cheaper than typhoid and dysentery.

(5.) Make the paid foreman look after the rubbish heaps, wells and ash-bins, and properly cleanse the slaughter-place.

(6.) Bath-houses should he provided.

(7.) Enteric linen should be boiled, and all the hospital washing done in a separate place.

(8.) Two Berkfeldt filters for the hospital and dispensary should be provided.

(9.) An addition of two trained nurses to the nursing staff should take place simultaneously with the increase in the hospital accommodation.

(10.) Two more marquees are needed for the school, and the Dutch teachers who know little or no English should be replaced by English teachers as soon as possible.

LADY KNOX'S REPORT ON CAMP MATRON'S WORK.

Klerksdorp, 3rd October 1901.

I met Miss Moritz, the camp matron, at 2.30 p.m., at the small tin dispensary in camp where all medicines are sent and from whence they are distributed to patients.

Miss Moritz's afternoon work consisted in going round tents where her camp nurses had already found cases of destitution or had received applications for clothes, boots, &c. The camp nurse of each section had her list and accompanied the camp matron.

In the first tent we found a woman—with one small child—who said she had no clothes and wanted underlinen badly. Miss Moritz promptly asked, "What have you on now? Show me," and the woman revealed, first, a scarlet flannel petticoat; secondly, a petticoat made out of a thick white blanket; and, thirdly, a dark stuff petticoat, all under a dirty stuff dress (temperature in tent must have been between 70° and 80°). Miss Moritz next pointed to a box (like a Scotch "kist") and begged leave to see the contents. There were shifts, rags, dirty kappies, more petticoats, books, a handkerchief full of coffee beans, and another full of sugar. A big sack was next opened; it contained a dirty cotton dress, more underlinen, dirty, but with much embroidery, and a large bundle of men's coats and trousers, which she said belonged to a father-in-law long since deceased. Miss Moritz decided that no clothes were required at present, and entered a note to that effect in her register of cases. Tent No. 2 contained a mother and five children—one of them a baby filthily dirty and very bad with whooping-cough. The mother was an absolutely shiftless body, so Miss Moritz picked up the baby and proceeded to administer the doctor's medicine. She asked for a spoon and was given a dirty one, which the woman washed in a dirty pannikin (although there was a barrel full of clean water at the door), and she was going to wipe it with an equally filthy rag had not Miss Moritz stopped her. The baby had a violent whooping fit, and a veil shall be drawn over the mother's system of helping it and tidying up the floor of the tent. Miss Moritz a second time got possession of the child, washed it, made a bed for it on a pile of mattresses and sacking, laying it on some 5 or 6 yards of new white calico which was peeping out of the big box, and it soon looked quite bright and happy. The family asked for under-clothing. The boxes were then turned out. Another large piece of new calico was found, the mother explaining that both pieces were intended for shrouds for herself and some other members of the family (she said six had already died before she came into camp). Miss Moritz explained that shrouding was always provided when required, and that it would be better to turn this calico into shifts; 6 yards of striped flannelette, new but very dirty, was unearthed—this had been a present, but had never been made use of. Plenty of clothing was found, but one pair of shoes was promised for the eldest girl, aged 11. She was told to wash her little brother's face, and as we left was making use of the baby's extra clean shift for that purpose.

Tent 3 contained a man and seven children, including two grown-up girls. The boxes revealed rags belonging to a deceased baby sister, five straw hats trimmed with artificial flowers, cotton and silk blouses covered with lace, a length of broad black satin ribbon, bead trimmings, a candle, two impossibly ragged pairs of boys' trousers, some new material, including lining for a blouse, some books, a very gorgeous empty cigarette case, and any amount

of tawdry rubbish; a certain amount of cotton stuff was also unearthed from below the mattress. The four boys were filthy and ragged to a degree, and I should think had never been anything else; Miss Moritz promised them each a new suit, and two clean shirts apiece.

In another tent a woman wanted sheets, but as the place was very dirty, we finally settled that dark washing prints for the mother and the three little girls would be a more useful present. In this tent there was an accumulation of flour. The woman said she and her four children had not touched bread for some time. They had been very ill, and had preferred living on meat, rice, milk and soup, provided by doctor's orders. I should not wonder if some of this flour found its way to the Boer camp. We went from tent to tent with invariably the same result—hopeless dirt and want of management, and the expectation that clothes, &c. would fall ready-made into their laps. The matron insists on the women or big girls making up the materials, and goes round to see this order is obeyed. Her lists of gifts is first passed by the Superintendent, and then handed on to the store in camp from which the goods are supplied.

Miss Moritz was doing a good but most unpleasant sort of work very thoroughly.

A Short Account of the Camp Matron's Morning Work at Klerksdorp.—By Miss Brereton.

I met the camp matron, Miss Moritz, at 8.30 a.m., and walked with her and the doctor to the camp out-patient department, a small iron room furnished with a counter and some shelves on which are kept a stock of certain medical comforts. From the camp matron I learnt that she had 12 probationers, not very young women, and many of them married, who were each responsible for about 70 tents, which they visited every morning before 8.30 and brought to her a list of those who were sick. The probationers were expected to assist in nursing cases sick in the camp; were responsible for seeing that the tents were properly cleaned and aired, the children washed, and that sick people received their medical comforts and medicine.

The matron met her probationers outside the iron room, and meanwhile the doctor looked over and signed for some hospital comforts, made out from his orders of the previous day. The order for this morning was 110 tins milk, 1 tin arrowroot, 2 tins sago, 1 bottle castor oil, 1 bottle embrocation; and this was sent to the dispenser at the hospital, who on the doctor's orders sends all the medicines, medical comforts, and stimulants required for the camp to the out-patient room, from whence they are fetched by the people or the camp probationers. The matron having received the lists of sick people from her probationers, informed the doctor there were 84 tents to visit that morning, and we began our rounds.

Each probationer is provided with a book, in which she notes the numbers of the tents and the names of the sick in her section. With the aid of the book she conducts the doctor and matron to the sick people, and writes down under each case what the doctor orders to be done. The probationer remains just outside the tent during the doctor and matron's visit. The matron assists the doctor as he requires, telling him what she knows of the case, and translating for him, as he does not speak Dutch. She also receives his orders. The doctor always makes his daily round in the same order, and the probationers can therefore calculate at what time to be ready in their section. In no case were we kept waiting, but as soon as one probationer had finished the number of sick on her list, and told the doctor she was "klaar," the next one appeared, and so on until all the sick had been visited. In addition to the probationers, there were three boys who carried empty bottles to the dispensary and also the doctor's prescription and orders for stimulants, by which excellent arrangement the patients were served with as little delay as possible. The majority of the tents were fairly furnished and well swept, but in others the tents were exceedingly dirty and swarming with flies. In these cases the doctor and matron spoke strongly to the people about the necessity of cleanliness, and in many other instances the matron made kind and helpful suggestions to "mothers" about their tents and the care of their children. There were a great many cases of measles, as well as several more

severe ones of pneumonia, bronchitis, &c.; and our round of visits took from 8.45 a.m. to 1 p.m. The matron then went to her lunch, a well-earned one after a morning of hard work. She is most energetic and capable, and proves how invaluable a good matron would be in every camp.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, BALMORAL, 17TH AND 18TH OCTOBER 1901.

This camp has only been in existence for two months. The Superintendent, Mr. Harvey, was formerly on the staff of the camp at Heidelberg. The numbers on the date of our visit were 290 men, 903 women, 1,088 children—total, 2,281. 200 had been sent away the day before to Howick, but the number had been made up by new arrivals.

The camp is situated on a good slope a very short distance south of the station. It is not surrounded by a fence.

1. *Water Supply.*—When the camp was first formed water was supplied from a dam used by the military, and it was supposed to be excellent. This water has since been condemned, and the people have been warned not to drink it. The supply of the camp is now taken from three springs ("fountains" as they are called in this country) which rise on the other side of the spruit, and are brought into camp by short lengths of piping. This water as it issues from the fountain is beautifully clear, but the main fountain is not sufficiently cleared out; it also should be covered in for protection against dust and dirt and contamination by animals and human beings. The services of a water engineer for a few days would be of great value in this camp and also at Belfast, to enable the Superintendents to make the best use of the natural springs at their disposal. The new water has not been analysed, but Mr. Harvey said there was no reason to doubt its purity. No cases of enteric had originated in the camp.

The Washing of Clothes is done in the spruit. Washing tables have been provided, but are not completed. The spruit water looks dirty; even above the washing-place it is not clean.

There are no bath-houses; 4,000 bricks had been made to build them, but heavy rain about a week before our visit had destroyed them.

2. *Sanitation.*—The "pail system," emptied by the military authorities and disinfected by the camp sanitary staff, which consists of four white men (out of the camp), who receive 2*s.* 6*d.* a day. They are responsible for the tarring of the buckets, for keeping the seats and floor clean, and for the proper use of "Izal" and chloride of lime. There are six latrines of eight buckets each, three of six, and one of four. There are twice as many latrines for women as for men. There are special places for children, and plenty of spare buckets. Mops for cleaning are kept in the latrines; these are on the whole well kept, although the children are careless about fouling the ground and the seats.

Removal of Dust, &c.—There is a big dust-heap on one side of the camp and a number of small ones within it. Nine wheelbarrows are going round all day long to remove these small dust-heaps to the big one. Two Scotch carts also help. From this large dust-heap wagons remove the rubbish to the still larger one outside the station, common to the camp and to the military. Mr. Harvey has generally relied on the military for the removal of the camp dust-heap to the military one, but for the last two weeks they have not been able to allow him any transport, and he has had to hire wagons from people in camp. Half the camp is cleared in the morning and half in the afternoon; at least this was being done on the second day of our visit. On the big dust-heap near the station pumpkins were springing up. This seems a good idea, helping to cover the dust heap and prevent the dust from blowing about.

Disposal of Slop-Water.—75 slop buckets have arrived but no slop cart; the dish water is thrown out on the ground.

3. *Housing.*—There are 12 canvas houses, mainly used by the staff; two large marquees which are used for new comers before they can be sorted out into separate tents; all the rest of the camp (with the exception of the hospital and school) are in bell tents. There is no overcrowding. The rule is one tent to a family of five and under and two tents for a larger number. The distance from pole to pole is 34 feet. The camp is intersected by main roadways 54 feet wide between every five rows of tents.

On October 10th the camp had been swamped by a tremendous rain; after this a shallow trench was dug on the upper side of the camp. This did not look as if it would be sufficient for its purpose. Mr. Harvey spoke of having been up to his waist in water. Ten tents blew down. Prompt measures were taken to help the people through the miseries caused by the storm. 1,000 blankets were distributed, but there were four deaths of measles patients on the following day. We would suggest that Mr. Harvey should get advice as to the efficiency of the present trench and upon the advisability of making smaller diagonal trenches through the camp leading into the larger trench. The rule about "flaps up" is not very well carried out, and causes a good deal of squabbling.

4. *Rations.*—Groceries for a week are issued every Monday to the whole camp; 8 ounces of coffee are allowed instead of 6 when raw coffee is used. The distribution is done by measure and not by weight; this is much more expeditious than weighing, and the whole of the week's rationing for over 2,000 people is done between 7 and 11 a.m. A margin of 5 per cent. was allowed in the supply of rations, and the issuers, of whom there are four, hardly ever came up to this margin. The issuing is done in a large marquee; the people come in at one door and out at another in batches of five; burgher police superintend this. There is plenty of wood and coal, and the people get as much as they require. Two ounces of soap per head per week is given. One bottle of milk mixed with filtered but unboiled water is issued to every child under 6, and a bottle of the same milk is also issued as a medical comfort to old and infirm people. Fresh cows' milk is very hard to get; six bottles a day have been secured for the hospital. Some of the camp people have stock of their own and are allowed to graze them along the railway line.* Men are not allowed to go with them on account of their communicating with the enemy who are quite near. Meat rations are issued twice a week by weight; the meat is cut up and weighed before the issuing begins. We saw the meat-issuing marquee. It was beautifully clean and free from smell and flies. The meat had been very poor of late, some of the sheep weighing as little as 11 lbs. On Thursday last 69 carcasses had been condemned as unfit for food, and bully beef had been issued. The people prefer fresh meat, however poor, to tinned meat.

5. *Kitchens.*—Thirty public ovens for baking bread are in course of erection. There are to be two cauldrons for supplying the whole camp with boiling water, but these have not yet arrived. All the ordinary cooking is done by each family separately. A great many of the people have contrived to make themselves very neat little ovens and stoves; they go to neighbouring farm-houses and bring away zinc and iron for this purpose. There has never been a soup kitchen. During the worst of the measles epidemic a great effort was made to bring the patients into hospital.

6. *Fuel.*—20 lbs. wood per head per week and 15 lbs. coal, and "the people "can have more if they want it."

7. *Slaughter-poles* are about 2 miles away from the camp at the place used by the military, the dirtiest and worst smelling yet seen; but as they are under military control they do not come within the purview of the Commission. Mr. Harvey said the slaughter-poles were inspected from time to time by the military and by the doctor. They are a discredit to everyone who is responsible for them. 130 sheep a week are slaughtered for the camp. Heads, feet, plucks, tripe, &c. are given away in camp as extras.

* Two shrapnel shells were fired from the fort at the station, while we were in camp, at Boers about 4 miles away. We were requested to leave by the Commandant, who expected an attack that evening. We went to Bronkers Spruit, returning the following day to finish our inspection of the camp.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—Mr. Harvey has a staff of carpenters busy making kartels as fast as they can. Wood has been received expressly for this purpose. Three men can make four in a day; they cost about 4*s.* apiece. They are issued free to sick and infirm people on the recommendation of the camp matron. We saw very few tents unprovided with some kind of bedstead. The large recent issue of blankets has just been mentioned, and Mr. Harvey now has a new supply—a lighter quality for summer, 20 bales of 50 each.

9. *Clothing.*—The Superintendent does not approve of the plan of getting all clothing through Poynton. He says Poynton's prices are high; that he charges 9*d.* a yard for flannelette, for example, which can be bought elsewhere for 4½*d.* Mr. Harvey belongs to the firm of Gordon, Mitchell, & Co., of Cape Town. He indents for what he requires instead of giving an order on Poynton's Stores. He said that at Middelburg 950*l.* a month was paid to Poynton for clothing. Although the Superintendent thought Poynton's prices unduly high, he was on good terms with the storekeeper, who is a member of a committee in camp who advise the Superintendent from time to time on various matters.

10. *Poynton's.*—A fairly well furnished store. The following is a list of some of the articles most in demand:—Golden syrup, 500 2-lb. tins, price 1*s.*, in a week; 100 1-lb. tins of butter, 1*s.* a lb., in a week; 600 lbs. of lard in a week; 50 lbs. of tea, at 2*s.* a lb., in a week; 72 lbs. of preserved ginger a week; about 40 lbs. of dates, at 1*s.* a lb., in a week; 72 bottles of Worcester sauce in a week, at 9*d.* and 1*s.* a bottle; 36 dozen tins of milk in two or three days, at 9*d.* a tin; 3 dozen corsets, at 2*s.* 9*d.* to 5*s.* a pair—the women had lately taken to wearing them.

11. *Hospital.*—The hospital at Balmoral is under several serious disadvantages, one of which is inevitable, but an effort should be made at once to remove the others. During a bad storm on the 18th September a hospital marquee, containing four children ill with measles, caught fire, and the poor children were either burned or suffocated to death. A local probationer, since dismissed, is supposed to have been responsible, as she is said to have run out of the marquee in a panic, leaving a lighted candle burning in it. This unfortunate occurrence has naturally strengthened the reluctance of the people to send their children to hospital; and, under the circumstances, everyone agrees that it would be both cruel and unwise to use compulsion. Further experience, it is hoped, will convince the people that their children benefit from hospital treatment. The doctor said that the feeling against the hospital was rapidly diminishing.

The other disadvantages under which the hospital labours are such as ought to be removed without delay:—

(1.) There is no matron, and there are no trained nurses. Miss Nettleton, now at Middelburg, was at one time at Balmoral, but her manner was harsh and unsympathetic, and she was sent to Middelburg. Mrs. Ritchie, at present acting as head of the local assistants, is untrained, and will not take the responsibility of serious cases, though willing to do her best until a trained nurse arrives.

(2.) There is an almost complete want of hospital equipment; no sheets, no pillow-cases, few beds, only one waterproof sheet, few mattresses, no charts, no filters, no boilers for enteric linen, &c. Hospital necessaries were indented for a month ago, but have not arrived.

The medical officer, Dr. Leigh, says he cannot urge sick people to come into hospital until a proper staff and equipment are provided. He cannot trust the four Dutch probationers with the care of serious cases. There are only 13 beds in the four hospital marquees; apart from measles, there have never been more than seven patients in the hospital at any one time.

The system of treating enteric linen is as follows:—There are three tubs, one containing carbolic, in which the sheets, &c., are placed and left for a week (this statement is Dr. Leigh's); the second and third contain fresh water, in which the linen is rinsed; it is then washed out on the veldt, the water draining away without any drain cut for it.

Close to No. 1 marquee were two barrels standing near each other, both uncovered, one containing disinfectant for enteric blankets and the other

drinking water, unboiled and unfiltered. Beyond the marquees, but far too close to them, was a trench into which enteric stools were emptied. They were well covered with chloride of lime, but they should have been taken further away. Dr. Leigh said he could not get up at 5 a.m. to see that this was done. Things like this would be attended to at once if a well-trained nurse were in charge.

One hundred and six cases of measles were treated in the hospital, with 15 deaths. The mothers were allowed to come in and nurse their children. At the date of our visit there were 20 tents in the measles isolation camp. The inmates of this camp have their rations fetched for them, and are not allowed to leave the camp.

The doctor has an out-patient department, in which he see patients daily from 11 to 12. Miss Robb, the camp matron, and her probationers visit tents and reports cases of sickness to the doctor. The camp matron does not go round to them with the doctor. This we regret, as we believe it would be a great assistance if the camp matron heard the doctor's directions to the patients. She would then be better able to secure their being carried out.

There is a qualified dispenser, who also has charge of the distribution of milk. The water used is filtered, but not boiled; two cases a day, viz. 96 tins, are given away; but we failed to ascertain the proportion of water to milk. The buckets in which milk is mixed are disinfected with Condy's fluid. It would have been better to scald them with boiling water.

There is a good stock of drugs and of medical comforts. The doctor orders his patients a great of cod-liver oil. There have been ten cases of typhoid in this camp, and two deaths; when we were there there were two cases under treatment and one suspect. One family had been attacked by scarlet fever; they were promptly isolated, and no further cases occurred.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Miss Robb, a very useful, practical woman. She has four helpers out of the camp. Two are camp visiting sisters and wear a badge C.V.S. on their arms; the other two are local assistants. Miss Robb has been in the camp nearly two months, and she speaks highly of the Boer girls whom she has trained to help her. They are paid 1*s.* a day, and also receive boots and candles. The day before we arrived three women had been sent up from the "loyal refugees" in Cape Town. One arrived drunk. The Superintendent said she was a well-known character in Johannesburg, and he was going to send her back at once. We advised that as soon as a trained matron arrived for the hospital the other two should be put under her to see what could be made of them. The Committee who choose these women ought to be warned of the uselessness of sending up incompetent women of bad character. Miss Robb had a quantity of clothing for distribution, some from Mrs. Courteney, some from Miss Hogg's Committee, besides Government clothing. She gives out tickets for clothing, kartels, and medical comforts, including brandy.

We did not see any instance of the abuse of stimulants in this camp. Miss Robb said she did not give more than 4 ozs. of brandy a week to old and infirm people; but we think a rule should be made that no stimulants should be given except on a written order from the doctor. Miss Robb and her assistants visit tents daily to discover cases of sickness, and she leaves a list of those requiring medical advice on the doctor's table every day at 10 a.m. and again at 2 p.m. She told us there was a midwife in camp, an experienced, sensible woman. She showed us the layettes which had been sent from the head office. She lends these for two months. They were quite nice. Miss Robb had the usual stories to tell of the extraordinary notions of the people about sickness and medicine. One woman, on whom she had put a linseed poultice, ate it. She took us to a tent where there was a sick child; the mother's way of treating it was to put half-crowns on the affected parts of its body. If the coins stuck the theory was the child would recover, if they fell off the case was hopeless. The lady who had eaten the linseed poultice told us she had lost 40 of her relations in the war. We thought at first she meant 14, but she maintained it was 40.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—There is none resident in camp. Mr. Brink comes every fortnight from Middelburg, and two elders (laymen) have been appointed to hold services, visit the sick, &c. Another clergyman is to be

appointed from Pretoria, who will come every fortnight alternately with Mr. Brink. The Scotch Presbyterian military chaplain also preaches in camp, the schoolmaster acting as interpreter.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Mr. Harvey has never required a wired-in enclosure or any other special punishment. If any one is troublesome the Superintendent gives them "a talking to." The camp is strictly out of bounds for all military camps, and *vice versâ*.

15. *Education.*—Mr. Morris is the headmaster. His wife teaches in the school, and he has three other assistants, one of whom, Hopthoff, a Hollander, was formerly headmaster. Notwithstanding the fact that Morris had superseded Hopthoff, there appeared to be a good feeling between the two men. Mr. and Mrs. Morris had only been at Balmoral two days when we were there. Mr. Morris is very deaf, and we did not think him a good teacher. He was doing a sum on the board, and he multiplied where he ought to have divided. This might have been due to nervousness, but a schoolmaster ought not to be nervous. He rubbed out the sum very quickly, and he was probably aware he had done it wrong. There was one quite grown-up man in his class, a powerful young fellow of about 25, who was refusing employment at good wages because he was so anxious to improve his education and learn English. It seemed a pity that he was not having a better teacher. Hopthoff taught singing well, and has evidently been used to it.

16. *Occupations.*—Tanning had been started. "Jackson-willow" from Natal is used. "Elondboompje" roots make an excellent tan, but it is impossible at present to go out on the veldt to obtain it. Mr. Harvey said they would be able to make good men's boots at 4*s.* a pair, such as Poynton's charge 15*s.* for. There was no garden. Carpentering was done in camp.

17. *Orphans.*—Mr. Harvey had paid a woman 2*s.* 6*d.* a day for looking after a family of four orphans; he had made unsuccessful efforts to get her to take less. He removed them from her as soon as he could and distributed them among their relatives. The Orphan Chamber at Pretoria appoints guardians when it is necessary.

18. *Local Committees.*—There are none in the ordinary sense of the words; but there is a sort of committee in the camp, consisting of two laymen, who discharge clerical duties—the Hollander schoolmaster, Mr. Hopthoff, and the storekeeper of Poynton's Store. This committee advise Mr. Harvey on certain points, and keep him informed of anything they think important which he might not otherwise know.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died.*—

——	Under 1 Year.	Between 1 and 5 Years.	Between 5 and 12 Years.	Between 12 and 20 Years.	Over 20 Years.	Total.
August - - -	6	3	4	—	3	16
September - -	10	8	10	1	8	37
October to 18th -	9	9	4	2	5	29
TOTAL -	25	20	18	3	16	82

20. *How many Women have applied for leave to go to Relatives?*—Mr. Harvey at first misunderstood the question, and thought we referred to women wanting to be transferred to other camps. He said some women were continually moving from camp to camp. He knew one who had been to six camps. She had enjoyed a little tour at the Government's expense. When he understood the question, he said if the women who applied to leave had husbands on commando he paid no attention to their request. When this was not the case he referred to the Commandant of the place to which the woman wished to go; if he had no objection the request was granted. He had very few applications.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, and they are rationed.

22. In all cases coffins and shrouds have been provided. Coffins are made in camp. The camp matron issues calico for shrouds. She said the people often made them most elaborately, trimming them with black lace, &c.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) Engage the services of an engineer to advise upon the best way of bringing the water supply into the camp.
(2.) Bath-houses or bath tents should be provided.
(3.) A slop cart, which we understand is indented for, is much needed.
(4.) A destructor for typhoid stools is needed. Until it is available, the trench where the stools are deposited should be moved further from the hospital.
(5.) A boiler should be provided for typhoid linen.
(6.) No time should be lost in supplying a trained nurse or matron to the hospital, and in sending up a proper hospital equipment. This should include a galvanised iron tank with close-fitting lid, and a tap for drinking-water.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, MIDDELBURG, 14TH TO 17TH OCTOBER 1901.

We arrived at this camp at 8.15 a.m. on Monday, October 14th, and stayed till Thursday morning, October 17th. We thus had three whole days for the inspection of the camp. It is one of the most unsatisfactory we have seen, and the task of inspection was rendered additionally troublesome and perplexing by the impossibility of obtaining accurate statements as to matters of fact from the Superintendent, or any definite information as to who was responsible for the carrying-out of the details of camp work. There is complete want of order, method and organisation, and there is hardly one department of camp life which can be reported on as being in a satisfactory state. The numbers in camp on the 14th October were 1,158 men, 2,251 women, 2,558 children = 5,947 ; 600 of these are living in the town. There are 204 natives in the camp.

As soon as the water supply has been secured it is proposed to remove the camp to a new site on the other side of the river.

1. *Water Supply.* — At our first interview with Mr. Gardner, the Superintendent, he told us that the water supply was quite satisfactory; that there were 10 or 12 wells, which were covered-in and had pumps attached. On investigation we found only six wells were in use; the others were either dry or had been condemned. The water from those wells which were working was pumped into wooden casks without covers. The water in these casks and in all the wells, except one, was quite opaque. The pump to the hospital well has been for eight months out of order. The well is open, and water is obtained in a bucket let down by hand.

Middelburg camp is divided into six sections, called Middelburg, Belfast, Ermelo, Carolina, Pretoria, and Rossenikal camps. In Ermelo camp there was no available well; the occupants were taking their water from a furrow full of dirty water supplied by a dam 4 miles off. The dam is constantly used by cattle to water at, and many sickly beasts have died at the water's edge. On the 2nd day of our visit soldiers from a column were bathing and washing in the dam, the banks of which (it may be mentioned) are in a dangerously leaky condition. The existence of the furrow and its use for drinking purposes was not mentioned to us by the Superintendent. No steps have been taken either to boil or filter the water for the hospital or the camp.

Washing.—There are 20 tables with a downward slope, each affording accommodation to five persons. There is no raised platform to stand on.

Water is taken from the furrow which runs behind the tables. The dirty water drains away towards the spruit; the ground between the tables and the spruit is in a very insanitary condition; masses of suds have accumulated and a kind of morass has been formed.

There are no bath-houses; but Mr. Gardner says there are to be some in the new camp.

2. *Sanitation.*—The "pail system"; the pails are emptied and disinfected by the staff of the camp. There are 29 seats for men, 52 for women, and 17 for children, and 99 extra slop-pails. The latrines are of wood and iron, well-built and arranged, but they are very badly kept. At 11.30 a.m. the slop-pails standing outside the latrines were over-full and without any disinfectant. The latrines were dirty and ill-kept; no chloride of lime had been used; some "Izal" had been used, but very sparingly.

It is impossible to say whether the bad condition of the latrines was due to an insufficient staff or to their not being made to do their work properly. On asking Mr. Gardner for details about his sanitary staff, the statement he gave us at one time differed from that he gave us on another. Even when he supplied a list of the staff in writing, it was difficult to arrive at its exact meaning, and Mr. Gardner's versions of his staff differed from the statements made by Mr. Farquharson (his Assistant Superintendent) and Mr. du Plessis, the sanitary inspector.

The rubbish lies about the camp in untidy heaps. The ground is littered with old rags and bones, and we could not definitely ascertain whose business it was to clear it up. The "commandant" of each camp complained that the one or two natives who constituted the scavenging staff were overworked and had no brooms. Mr. Gardner said that he had "police," "corporals," "inspectors," and paid assistants for the scavenging. They, however, could not be found. The rubbish is deposited in holes full of dirty water at the lowest part of the slope under the camp. The smell here was very bad. There appear to be plenty of transport animals and five Scotch carts, but no organisation for the disposal of dust and other rubbish. Quite new corrugated iron dust-bins were being put up in camp during our visit.

3. *Housing.*—Mainly bell tents; but there are several hundred of the square Indian tents, besides marquees, and a few Boer tents. There is also a row of very good two-room cottages made of sods. These have been allotted to old people or invalids. The dwellings were not overcrowded, and the general appearance of some of the interiors was comfortable, while others were as filthy as can well be imagined. The trenching of the camp was very inefficient. Ermelo camp was not trenched at all, and had suffered very much from the recent rains. Carolina camp was also very insufficiently trenched. The numbering of the tents was not carried out in any regular manner, and the tents were badly pitched; in several places an extra tent appeared to have been squeezed in in defiance of all rule and order. Wagons also had been brought into camp by their owners; one was observed by us belonging to the "commandant" of the Ermelo camp. This man is supposed to be responsible for the sanitary regulations of this camp. His wagon had upon the floor of it a large quantity of putrifying meat, under it were a quantity of uncured skins of animals, while above, on strings, hung rows of biltong. Mr. Du Plessis, the sanitary inspector, informed us that he had spoken again and again to the owner of this wagon, but his authority was not backed up by Mr. Gardner, and nothing was done. The Middelburg camp had more dogs and fowls in it than any other we have seen. The dogs must be numbered by the hundred, and fowls were hatching their chickens in the tents.

4. *Rations.*—Weekly rations are issued on four days a week, one quarter of the camp being served on each day. The rationing store was extremely dirty and untidy. There were about 3 inches of flour and dust all over the floor. Corned beef was being served instead of fresh meat on account of the poor condition of the animals. While the very poor meat was being issued the ration was increased. Medical comforts are issued from the same store as ordinary rations. There was an ample supply of Chollet's vegetables, arrowroot, and other medical comforts, which were issued to all who brought

a doctor's order. The following is the copy of the ration issued to a family of two adults and six children (five of them over six) :—

52½ lbs. flour.
10 „ meat (corned beef).
1 „ 14 ozs. coffee.
6 „ sugar.
8 „ rice.
5 ozs. soap.

As a general rule, the Superintendent informed us, the camp had been served with fresh and good meat. The Army Service Corps had lately sent them 2,000 sheep, which were in such a very bad condition that only 200 had been killed; the rest had been herded, and would not be slaughtered till they were in better condition. There is no regular ration of milk, but it is issued mixed with boiled water—the Superintendent said—on the nurses' orders; 500 tins, making 1,800 bottles of milk, were in this way issued daily. During our visit the milk was being given out in tins unmixed with water; on inquiring the cause of this we were informed that since the heavy rains the water was too bad to mix with the milk. The result of this would probably be that the milk would be mixed with unboiled water in tents rather than with boiled water from the milk-supply tent.

A good many people in camp have cattle of their own; 3,600 cattle belonging to refugees were sent in June to the low country to graze. The Superintendent said he had 120 of these, free of charge, for transport service on sanitary work in camp.

5. *Kitchens.*—There are no public ovens. Some had been put up, but the people would not use them. When the military had first started the camp they had put up a large mess-room. No Boer would ever use it, and it has been converted into a carpenter's shop. All the cooking is done separately by each family.

6. *Fuel.*—The allowance of fuel is very liberal in this camp: 200 lbs. of coal each week to each family, besides wood. The only complaint we heard about fuel was that it was very hard to have to carry such a heavy weight of it. The "corporal" in charge of the coal said some "white men" ought to be provided to carry the sacks of coal to the tents! We did not see that there was practically any check upon the people getting as much fuel as they wanted.

7. *Slaughter-poles.*—The slaughtering was done for the camp by a Middelburg butcher named Pols. The place is about 4 miles from the camp. It is the same as that used by the town. It is in a very insanitary condition. Pigs were digging up the lightly-covered trenches full of dead oxen, old hides, offal, &c. Some trenches were nearly half full of dead oxen not covered in at all. There was a great plague of flies. We complained of the slaughter-place to the magistrate, Mr. Kerr, who promised to have the conditions remedied.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—Very few tents were observed which did not contain good beds and bedding. Mr. Gardner said that he had ordered thousands of feet of timber for making kartels; he gives wood gratis to any man who applies, but he requires him to make three, keeping one for himself and returning two to the Superintendent for issue to women who could not make them for themselves. The wood had come up from Delagoa Bay.

The Superintendent had issued 4,000 blankets—3,200 from the Government and 800 from the Netherlands fund. He had issued no waterproof sheets.

9. *Clothing.*—The following is the value of the clothing issued to the camp through Poynton's Store in the four months June to September :—

	£	s.	d.
June	401	6	0
July	431	18	0
August	869	10	8
September	965	2	4
	£2,667	17	0

Mr. Gardner said that he employed "an elderly married man" to go round from tent to tent and make an investigation into the cases needing clothes. A strong suspicion is entertained that "the elderly married man," not being able to investigate with thoroughness, distributed clothing to his own friends, with a preference to those whose husbands were on commando. The camp nurses also make recommendations for gifts of clothing; but great care is needed to prevent imposition. It had been found that out of a list of 20 names sent in, 15 had already received recent gifts of clothing. The Quaker ladies, Miss Hogg and Miss Taylor, who have been spending several weeks in the camps on this line, informed us they had come to the conclusion that more harm than good had been done by gifts of clothing from private societies.

10. *Stores.*—Poynton's, under the usual regulations. It was the first store in which we had seen books for sale.

11. *Hospital.*—The hospital was in a state of transition; Dr. Cockerton had just arrived as P.M.O. He had taken over the hospital entirely for a fortnight in order to rearrange it. He intends to hand back so many beds to each of the three camp doctors.—Dr. Spencer (district surgeon), Dr. Morehead (military doctor), and Dr. Mast (a resident refugee). There are two tents for enterics, but in addition enteric patients are scattered through the general hospital. Dr. Cockerton intends to place them in future in separate enteric wards. The staff consists of the four doctors already mentioned:—

A matron, Miss Wallace.
Four nurses, who take night work in turn.
Sixteen probationers, eight for night and eight for day.
Two dispensers.
One native nurse for native patients, and servants.

There are no male attendants for work in the wards. There is no water cart, and the water is neither boiled nor filtered. The water standing in new tanks outside the hospital kitchens was the colour of peasoup. The hospital well, as previously mentioned, is an open one, the pump is broken, and the water dirty. Dr. Cockerton is putting up a boiler and is applying for filters. There is only one filter in the whole camp, and that is in the dispensary.

The hospital accommodation consists of:—

Three marquees (extra large).
Eight E.P. tents.
Two bell tents for isolation cases.
One marquee for P.M.'s.
One marquee operating theatre.
Two bell tents, one for clean and one for soiled linen.

There are in all 72 beds, and at the time of our visit there were 61 patients; of these quite half were enterics, distributed through all the hospital wards.

The hospital wash-house was good. All the linen is boiled, and the enteric sheets are disinfected with "Izal" as well. There are two kitchens, both in good order; one contains two stoves. Neither of the kitchens is provided with a meat-safe, which is much wanted.

The wards were neat, comfortable, and well ventilated. Stimulants were provided in great abundance and variety. We noted brandy, port, stout, claret and champagne, but the three great essentials for the cases in hospital were lacking, namely, fresh milk (six bottles a day for 30 enteric patients is almost nothing), fresh eggs, fruit and vegetables for scorbutics. Lemons are plentiful at Barberton, and might probably have been procured at Middelburg if a little pains had been taken. Plenty of fruit and vegetables are brought up from Barberton for the military hospital at Middelburg. The patients looked comfortable, and had mosquito netting over their heads to keep away the flies; but several were very seriously ill. There have been two cases of gangrene in the leg after enteric.

Out-patients.—Doctors Spencer and Morehead see out-patients every morning in a consulting-room adjoining the dispensary. Dr. Mast does all his

work in the tents. The three doctors, Spencer, Morehead, and Mast, divide the camp work between them. There are three camp sisters, who work under the three doctors, and a so-called camp matron, Mrs. Burgers, who is really acting as cook and housekeeper to the hospital staff. The three camp sisters each have one or two Boer probationers under them. The probationers go round first from tent to tent, and report cases of sickness to the sister under whom they work; the sister visits the case, takes temperatures, &c., and judges whether it is one which requires the doctor; the sister then furnishes the doctor for whom she works with a list of the cases he ought to visit. This is the theoretical plan of the work, but the practice we found differed considerably from the theory. Dr. Mast did not know who his camp sister was. No sister appeared to make her rounds either with Dr. Morehead or Dr. Mast. Unfortunately, the sisters give the orders not only for sick comforts, but also for stimulants and medicine, such as quinine. The conviction was forced upon us that stimulants were given too freely. One old woman, in a tent to which two members of the Commission were taken by the sister in charge, was distinctly intoxicated. Stimulants should only be given on doctors' orders in writing, and all patients needing much stimulant should be brought into hospital. It is illustrative of the great differences which exist in the management of different camps that at Aliwal North there was no brandy at all for patients in the lines, however necessary the doctors might consider it to be; and in Middelburg stimulants of all kinds, including brandy, were freely ordered by camp sisters.

The compulsory bringing of serious cases to hospital is approved by Drs. Cockerton, Spencer, and Morehead, but not by the refugee, Dr. Mast, who encourages his patients—with the exception of enterics—to remain in their tents during severe illness. An example of the danger incurred by leaving sick children in the tents was brought to our notice by seeing a child, dangerously ill, lying on its mother's knee, while the "Huis-apotheke" was open beside her, and a paper full of goats' dung was also at hand, ready to concoct some disgusting potion for the unfortunate child. There is a considerable use of Dutch medicines, containing ether and opium, throughout the camp.

The epidemic of measles is to a large extent over; but there is much diarrhœa in the camp, and enteric, whooping-cough, German measles, and scurvy are all to be found; and unless the water supply of the present camp is improved immediately, or the move to the new camp accomplished without delay, a very serious outbreak of enteric appears to be inevitable. Already half the cases in hospital are enteric.

There are a large number of different disinfectants used in this hospital, viz., chloride of lime, "Izal," sublimate, carbolic, and Sanitas powder. At the same time, unboiled and unfiltered water was being drunk.

The Housing of the Staff.—The hospital and camp sisters have each a bedroom or a tent, and they share a mess-room in a cottage near the hospital. The mess-room was neat and clean, but the dispenser's bedroom opened into it and could only be reached through the nurse's mess-room. This is a most objectionable arrangement, and should at once be put an end to.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Four women of British birth arrived at Middelburg camp from Cape Town on Wednesday, October 16th. They had been sent in consequence of orders from Pretoria, and are intended to take part in the nursing either of the hospital or the camp. When we saw them they were sitting in an unfurnished room, while Mrs. Burgers was tearing up calico to make them sheets and table-cloths. No preparation whatever had been made for their reception; there was not a bed or a chair or a washing-stand for one of them. There was no one to tell them what duties were expected of them. Mrs. Burgers, who is called the camp matron, had arrived in camp about a fortnight ago. She said she had found no preparation whatever made for her. She was put into an empty room, into which she managed to get a bed, but no other furniture, before nightfall. She had brought her own sheets, &c. She had been engaged as nurse for the hospital. She is called a camp matron, but what she really does is to cook and do the housekeeping for the hospital staff of ten persons. Mr. Gardner

had never given her any directions about her work. Other officials also said hey had never received any instructions from Mr. Gardner about their work, or been told what was expected of them.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. Brink has been lately appointed. We had heard a good account of him at Aliwal; he was absent from camp during the days of our visit. Mr. Marée, a missionary, had acted as clergyman before Mr. Brink's arrival. We called on him in his house in the town; he was ill in bed, but we saw him for a few minutes. He spoke of the poverty of the people, and the want of shoes, especially, as a reason why more children did not attend school.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Mr. Gardner had never used any special means of enforcing his authority. He had once told some women he had placed them on his black list, and this he believed had affected their imagination. He said they were like children or natives. He had had no difficulty about morals, and he said that his camp was out of bounds for all military camps. On another occasion he said he had had considerable difficulty about morals, and quoted cases.

15. *Education.*—The school in this camp was not satisfactory. The headmaster, Mr. Roos, could only speak broken English; he is not a trained teacher, and evidently has no gift for interesting the children, who looked dull and bored. He had only had the school since the beginning of October. Mr. Pels, a Hollander, who is now an assistant, was formerly headmaster. He is a much more skilful teacher than Mr. Roos. He had two young women of over 20 in his class who had come there to learn English. In another marquee a young woman assistant was teaching the tonic sol-fa very well. It appears to the Commission very desirable to get the services of trained English teachers in these schools as soon as possible. It is nearly impossible to understand some of the present teachers when they think they are speaking English. We tried to see Mr. Maurice White, the school inspector for the district, but we were told he was in Pretoria.

16. *Occupations.*—There is a very good carpenter's shop in camp, and we were shown a sideboard or cheffonier which had been made there, which was a creditable piece of work. A tannery is being started, and the men seemed very keen and interested in what they were doing. Bootmaking will be started when the leather is ready. There is no garden, but the Superintendent said there would be one in the new camp. 120 men are employed in tho town, 100 on the dam. This was the Superintendent's statement; but no men were seen at work on the dam when we visited it.

17. *Orphans.*—This is the only camp in which we have found what was called an orphanage. Mr. Gardner said there were 186 orphans, and that he paid a woman to look after them. We found 22 children in the orphanage; nine girls sleep in the big marquee, which is also used as a general dining-room, and 11 boys sleep in a tent outside; one girl is a probationer in the hospital, and one is working in the town. Mr. and Mrs. Jordaan take charge of the children, and are supervised by Mr. Dieprink, a former member of the Volksraad. The children in the orphanage do not attend school, they are supposed to be taught by Mr. Jordaan; but as he said he had buried "124 die-bodies" in August (he acts as sexton), he cannot have had much time for teaching the children. One girl (subject to fits) was ill in bed in the large marquee occupied by the orphans. The marquee was dirty and swarming with flies. It is our conviction that it would be much better for the orphan children if they could be distributed among their nearest relatives, attend the ordinary school, and take part in the ordinary family life of the community. Mr. Dieprink was extremely kind in his manner to the children, who seemed very fond of him.

18. *Local Committees.*—There had formerly been one of camp people, but it died a natural death.

19. *Return of those who have Died.*—

—	Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 12.	12 to 20.	Over 20.	Total.
February	—	—	1	—	—	1
March	1	3	—	—	2	6
April	3	2	1	1	2	9
May	8	11	1	—	10	30
June	30	63	31	14	28	166
July	57	197	87	34	28	403
August	18	48	17	11	25	119
September	32	29	12	13	16	102
October (14th)	17	11	6	2	10	46
TOTALS	166	364	156	75	121	882

And 40 natives.

20. *Women applying to leave.*—A few have applied. The matter is always referred to the Commandant of the district to which they wish to go. If he raises no objection, they are allowed to leave.

22. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, there are not many, and they are not rationed.

22. Shrouds and coffins had invariably been provided for all corpses. The wood had been ordered direct from Delagoa bay.

GENERAL REMARKS.

We inspected the site of the new camp accompanied by Major Rice, R.E., who gave us particulars respecting the water supply of 10,000 gallons a day brought from a pure source and conveyed in pipes all the way, which he is prepared to supply. Major Rice informed us that Mr. Gardner had recommended that in the new camp all the water should be drawn from one central position. We think that this, in so large a camp as Middelburg, is highly undesirable, and that there should be at least three stations in the camp at which water can be drawn. We have never seen a camp of between 5,000 and 6,000 people provided with only one place where they can draw water.

The bad water supply of the present camp; the absence of boilers and filters, and the inefficient manner in which the sanitary work is carried out, are a source of the very greatest danger to the present camp. We cannot believe that any conscientious and capable man in the position of superintendent would have allowed it to continue as Mr. Gardner has done. We feel bound to say that his statements to us regarding the water supply and sanitation of his camp were calculated to mislead rather than to inform; and we recommend that he should not be allowed to continue in his post, and especially that the inauguration and organisation of the new camp should not be entrusted to him.

In the meantime, *immediate* steps should be taken to provide boilers and filters for the present camp, and to insist on the emptying and disinfecting of latrine pails, and the cleansing of the latrines themselves, and of the surrounding ground.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, BELFAST, 12TH TO 14TH OCTOBER 1901.

This camp has absorbed the town of Belfast, that is to say, the houses which once formed the town now form part of the camp. About two-thirds of the people live in houses, and one-third in tents. The total number at the date of our visit was 1,567—viz., 289 men, 568 women, and 710 children. The Superintendent is Mr. David Murray. The camp was attacked by Boers on 15th September last. Their object, probably, was to seize stores. Up to the day before the attack was made the camp was practically undefended. As it

was, the attack was repulsed. One Boer woman was killed and two children were wounded; one of these was still in hospital when we were there. The camp is divided into three, or, if the houses are counted, four sections. The Superintendent has sent off one party of 158 to Natal. As he is able, he means to move the people out of houses into tents; he has been pressed by the military to do this. The camp is almost on the fighting line, and women in camp have been detected burying clothing and stores and conveying them to the commandos by Kaffir messengers. All the men's clothing, formerly at Poynton's stores, has now been removed to a store under the control of the Commanding Officer. The camp is now commanded by blockhouses, and no one is allowed to go beyond them. The rule against moving about in camp after dark is strictly enforced.

1. *Water Supply.*—This has been a source of considerable anxiety. The water has been taken from wells intended for the supply of a little town of 500 people. The present supply can only be described as bad. There are 12 wells, only four of which are properly covered in; in three only the pumps work well. The water is muddy, the pumps are old, and most of them will only suck if water is first poured in. The Superintendent informed us that he had found a good spring on the hillside 600 yards away from the camp. He intends to pump water from this place by a steam engine into tanks to be erected in camp, and also to make this water all pass through big boilers and to be boiled before it is distributed. He does not anticipate great expense from this. Coal is very cheap, owing to the proximity of mines, and can be bought at 6*s.* 8*d.* a ton. It should be noted, however, that all this scheme has still to be carried out, that the present water supply is very unsatisfactory, and therefore that no increase should be made in the numbers of the camp until the new water scheme has become a reality.

There are no bath-houses either for men or women, but Mr. Murray is hoping to put some up. We recommended the simple plan we had seen at Krugersdorp of bell tents, each containing a zinc bath. A woman should be placed in charge of all the bath-tents to see they are kept in order.

The place for washing clothes in the spruit was very good. There was a clean rocky bottom, a good flow of water on a slope sufficient to carry off the suds and dirt, and, on the banks, plenty of rocks for drying and grass for bleaching.

2. *Sanitation.*—The "pail system" emptied and disinfected by camp staff. The sanitary staff is too small for the work. There is one sanitary inspector and two native boys, who have only one little wagon fitted with barrels for emptying the latrine pails. The pails are consequently, with the exception of those belonging to the hospital, only emptied once in two days. They are badly kept and foul. Those in No. 3 camp were overflowing. Seats and floors were dirty in every section of the camp; there was no suitable accommodation for children; and there was no indication which latrines were to be used by women and which by men. In section 3 there was a large unfinished latrine. There were several small private latrines which were badly kept. One was observed to have a cesspool, and it may be feared that this was the case with more than one.

There were bins throughout the camp for dry rubbish, and also dust heaps, which are said to have been legacies from Belfast town. The Superintendent several times asked us to remember that he had had to clear away the insanitary accumulations of Belfast for the last 10 years. The people living in houses were very negligent in regard to the clearing away of rubbish. He expostulated with a man who would not take the trouble to drag away a dead goat from his own front door; and with another who was too lazy to move his ash heap from the front of his house to the back, where his ash-bin was. There are half casks for slop water in two sections of the camp, but not at present in the third and newest section. These are emptied into a large trench at some distance from the camp, where all the latrine pails are also emptied. Plenty of chloride of lime is used, but no earth till the trench is full. At the date of our visit the rain had filled it.

3. *Housing.*—There are a large number of bell tents, many of which are double, and a few of the square Indian tents. The average number to a tent is five, and the distance from pole to pole is 39 feet.

The camp matron, Mrs. Colville, sees that the rule about raising the flaps of tents is observed. The Superintendent said there was more sickness in the houses than in the tents. With very few exceptions the people occupying houses were living in degrading squalor. There were plenty of beds and bedding, but dirt and disorder reigned supreme. As examples, may be mentioned, that—(1.) A child with whooping cough having been sick on the floor, no attempt was made to clean up the place. (2.) A good white blanket of fine texture was nailed up across the chimney of a room. This chimney was the only possible source of ventilation.

Since the attack on the camp on September 15 a considerable number of people who live in tents had been afraid to live in them at night, and had crowded into the already occupied houses. This may partly account for the squalor of the houses, which was very marked.

4. *Rations.*—Weekly rations of groceries are served to half the camp on Monday and to half on Thursday. Meat rations are issued twice a week. Some corned beef has been issued recently. One bottle of condensed milk is issued daily to every child under three. The milk is mixed with filtered, but unboiled, water in the proportion of one tin to three bottles. Two tins of Ideal and one of sweetened milk make nine bottles. There is no soup kitchen. There is a soap ration and some soap has been made in camp. When raw coffee is issued 50 per cent. more weight is allowed.

5. *Kitchens.*—There are three public ovens for baking bread and two more in course of erection. The firing is provided by the Superintendent. Nearly all the bread is baked in these public ovens but the cooking is done separately by each family.

6. *Fuel.*—14 lbs. coal per head per week and the same weight of wood; the same fuel ration is allowed for babies as for adults.

7. *The Slaughter-poles* are about a mile from the camp. The place was clean and sweet. The trench used for offal had plenty of chloride of lime in it but no earth had been thrown in. The slaughter is done partly by burghers from the camp with some native help.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The Superintendent thought very few were without some sort of bedstead. We, however, noticed a good many tents in which the bedding was on the ground. Kartels had been made in camp. The Superintendent issued wood gratis and paid a man 2*s.* 6*d.* a day for making kartels. The Superintendent observed plaintively that if you gave one thing away you must be prepared to give 1,500. A large number of blankets had been issued. We noticed great numbers of the brown Army blankets and also gay striped ones, as well as some fine white blankets.

9. *Clothing.*—A large quantity of Government clothing had been issued last month; and since the camp started, gifts of clothing had been received from three private societies. The minister, Mr. Du Toit, had received 50*l.* anonymously, which he spent on clothing. Mr. Du Toit had a committee of men and Mrs. Du Toit a committee of women, who made recommendations on the subject of clothing. It is also part of the camp matron's work to do this.

The children whom we saw assembled in school on Saturday afternoon were, with one or two exceptions, particularly well dressed, but the general look of the people, both in tents and houses, was very dirty and ragged.

10. *Stores.*—Poynton's, under the usual regulations. No men's clothing is allowed to be kept in the store. It was found that the women in camp were supplying the Boers in the field with clothing and stores. The delinquents have been sent to Natal. A limit of £1's worth has been set upon the amount of grocery anyone is allowed to buy on one day.

11. *Hospital.*—The hospital has been established in an old hotel. It is capable of holding 50 patients. There are at present 23 patients in the three general wards and 5 patients in the measles ward. In this hospital, like that at Barberton, a special effort has been made to bring in the cases of measles; 90 cases in all have been brought in, of which 15 died. There are still 17 beds for measles. The small children are put two in a bed, one

at the head and one at the foot. The epidemic was at its worst in September. At the date of our visit (October 12) it had nearly ceased.

The staff consists of—

Dr. Scheinessen (recently arrived).
1 matron, Miss Herbst.
2 nurses, trained.
6 probationers from the camp.
1 dispenser.

There are six cases of enteric in the hospital not kept in a separate ward. There is a boiler for enteric linen and a destructor for the stools, which are previously mixed with chloride of line. The linen is placed in a solution of 1 in 20 carbolic as soon as it leaves the patient.

There are isolation tents for diphtheria and scarlet fever; a disinfecting room, where measles patients are given a Condy's fluid bath before leaving; and there is also a room in which clothes and mattresses can be disinfected. All drinking water for patients' use is boiled, with the exception of that used for mixing with milk. This is filtered, but not boiled.

The dispensary is well stocked with drugs and medical comforts. The latter are very lavishly, not say wastefully, used. We would suggest that the plan should be adopted of issuing not more than 2 ozs. of brandy in one day to anyone ill in the tents; if more is required, the case should be brought into hospital. Among the medical comforts were noticed a very large stock of Chollet's compressed vegetables, which are known to be the best and most expensive preparation of this kind.

There are two tents for the dispensary. The hospital kitchen is large, clean, and in good order.

Out-patients are seen daily by the doctor at the hospital.

Names of those wishing to consult the doctor are handed in at the out-patient department between 9 and 10 a.m. Mrs. Krauss (who is not camp matron) then goes round with the doctor and takes him to visit these cases. There are many serious cases of illness in the lines, and no special effort was being made to get them into hospital. There is a most excellent hospital matron fully equal in every way to the duties of her position. The Commission feel it is doing less than justice to her and to the hospital to put off the bringing in of serious cases until they are virtually at the point of death.

12. *The Camp Matron* is Mrs. Colville, who has been already mentioned. She advises on the distribution of clothing. The investigation of cases of sickness is mainly done by Mrs. Krauss.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Mr. Du Toit. Mr. and Mrs. Du Toit are very helpful to the Superintendent in various ways. Mr. Munro, the schoolmaster, also holds an English service on Sunday afternoons.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Mr. Murray does not believe in the wired-in enclosure nor in stopping rations; the latter, he says, only punishes the children for the fault of their parents. He has, from time to time, placarded in the camp the name of a woman who has shown herself incorrigibly dirty, and this has had a very good effect. He has had no trouble about morals.

15. *Education.*—There is a capital school under Mr. Munro, a Scotchman. He not only conducts the school, but he has classes for adults, young men of 24 or 25, who wish to learn bookkeeping or to improve themselves in English. These pay for themselves and are allowed to leave off work half-an-hour earlier in order to get time for their classes before 6 p.m. No one is allowed to go from tent to tent after that hour. The school is held in the landdrost's office, a capital building. The tables and benches were made by the military. A former Commanding Officer took great interest in the school and gave a football to the boys and skipping ropes to the girls, and allowed the A.S.C. to give labour to prepare the ground for a garden for the school. There are a large number of small plots where peas, beans, carrots, cauliflowers, &c. are being grown. There is a captain for the girls and a captain for the boys, and the captains decide to what

children these garden plots should be allotted. The school house would afford accommodation for 500 children. There are about 300 on the books and the average attendance is about 200. A kindergarten is in preparation. Mr. Munro, who is an enthusiastic teacher, has four assistants. The children looked very bright and interested in their work. There was no doubt Mr. Munro was interested in his. He said he had never been so happy in his life.

16. *Occupations.*—Besides the children's gardens just referred to the Commission did not see any occupations in the camp which call for special remark. Mr. Murray said he was hoping shortly to set both men and women to work at making shoes and clothes. A good many kartels have been already made.

17. *Orphans* are taken care of by their relatives. Where they have property they are protected by the Orphan Chamber.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died.*—

Month.	Under 1.	1–5.	5–12.	12 and over.	Total.
June	—	2	—	1	3
July	3	7	—	4	14
August	5	14	4	2	25
September	8	27	8	7	50
October, to 12th	2	2	1	2	7
TOTAL	18	52	13	16	99

20. *How many Women have applied for leave to join Relations?*—About five. They were not allowed to go. The commandants of the districts to which they proposed to go objected to receive them.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, and they are rationed. The Superintendent expected a certain amount of work from them in exchange for their rations.

22. *Coffins* and shrouds have been provided for all corpses. The coffins are made in camp, painted black, and lined with white. Funerals take place in the town cemetery.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

Sanitation.

1. The sanitary staff should be increased by at least four more black boys. A slop cart is also required. The pails of the latrines should be emptied daily. Low seats for children should be provided. Sanitary police should be put in charge of the latrines and the old cesspools should be filled up and done away with. Old badly-kept latrines should be closed. Small coal dust might be used for the floor of the latrines.

2. Complete the new water supply as quickly as possible. In the meantime, clean out and properly cover the old wells and place new pumps on the best in each camp. This would be a safeguard in the event of the new water supply not proving sufficient.

3. Use earth in the trenches where the latrine pails are finally emptied, and also in the trenches of the slaughter-place.

4. Appoint a man or boy to see that no rags or dirt are allowed to accumulate in the washing place.

5. All tents and houses should be visited daily by camp nurses and cases of sickness reported to the doctor. All serious cases should be brought into hospital at an early stage.

6. More care should be shown in the distribution of medical comforts. Not more than 2 ozs. of brandy should be given to one patient in his own tent or house in one day. If the doctor considers more is required the

patient should be brought into hospital. All milk should be given out mixed with boiled water and not in the tin.*

General Remarks.

A very considerable sum (nearly 200*l.* a month) is spent in this camp on labour. The money is distributed among 125 inmates of the camp. It is to be feared that many of the Boer men who receive wages reconcile it with their conscience to pocket the money and give little or no value in labour in exchange for it. For instance, 3*l.* 5*s.* a month is paid to a pump fitter, but out of 12 pumps only three work well. It is to be feared that these camps will have a very demoralising effect upon the people unless a determination is shown to prevent men receiving wages who do little or nothing in return. It is in itself a demoralising influence to receive all the necessaries and some of the luxuries of life from the Government as a free gift, and this demoralising influence will be intensified if men are allowed to receive wages and neglect the work they are supposed to do in exchange for them.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, BARBERTON, OCTOBER 1901.

This camp, which was formed on February 1st, 1901, is beautifully situated on sloping ground at the foot of the mountains, which form a sort of amphitheatre on two sides of Barberton village. The camp is prettily planted with trees. It is entirely enclosed by a fence, and the buildings formerly occupied as the Agricultural Society's showroom are utilised for the school. At the date of the visit of the Commission the numbers in camp were 327 men, 758 women, 868 children = 1,953. None at present had been sent away, but Mr. Graumann, the Superintendent, had been instructed to be in readiness to send 300 away to Natal. When this is done he intends to do away with the tents now standing within the malarial belt in the lowest part of the camping ground. There are several particularly good points about this camp.

1. The way in which the tents are pitched so that the openings do not overlook each other.

2. The supply to a large number of tents of quarter sections of boarded flooring.

3. The placing of the receptacles for wet and dry rubbish immediately *outside* the fence, so that the people can put the deposits in from the inside while the sanitary carts for clearing need never come inside the camp.

4. The measures which were taken under the direction of the medical officer, Colonel Robinson, to isolate measles and bring as many as possible of the cases into hospital. Special hospital marquees and a buck-sail shelter were erected, in which 357 cases of measles were treated out of a total in the whole camp of between 500 and 600.

The convalescents were kept in hospital until 16 days after the first appearance of the eruption. The mothers were allowed to come into hospital with their children. They were turned out if they were detected in doing anything calculated to be injurious to their children. For instance, one woman was sent away who painted her child's face with vermilion oil paint. Fortunately this was discovered while the paint was still wet and could be easily removed. The proportion of recovery of the measles cases treated in hospital compared favourably with that of those treated in the tents.

1. *Water Supply* is excellent. It is the same as that of the town and is brought from two streams from a good height up in the mountains, Reiner's Creek and Rosses' Creek. These streams fill a large cemented reservoir, and the water is conducted thence in iron pipes both to the town and the camp.

The camp water is stored in seven 400-gallon tanks connected with pumps, from which the people fetch their water. The only anxiety connected with the water supply is that it may not prove sufficient for both town and camp. We were informed there was some danger of this during the last dry season, and it should be borne in mind as a reason for reducing rather than increasing

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* This is one of the camps which the Commission recommended should be moved.

the numbers in the camp. As evidence of the excellence of the water, and of the satisfactory character of the sanitary organisation, it should be mentioned that this camp is the first visited by the Commission in which there was not a single case of enteric.

The arrangements for washing clothes were well contrived. A long table sloping downwards, was divided into 30 compartments to accommodate as many women. On the higher side of this a low platform for standing on was provided. Each woman draws her own water into a bath or pail from two pumps close by, and the dirty water drains off the slope of the table into an open trench which is swept down daily and is kept very clean.

For personal washing there are two corrugated iron bath-houses, one for men and one for women, each containing two rooms provided with zinc baths.

2. *Sanitation.*—The latrines are on the "pail system," emptied and disinfected by the town contractor, and the accommodation was sufficient. There are two latrines for natives. The latrines and pails were thoroughly clean and well kept. The whole ground of the camp was also exceptionally clean. The arrangements for the disposal of wet and dry rubbish have been already referred to. There are 32 barrels and half-barrels and 10 dustbins in regular order *outside* the wire fence which encloses the camp. These are emptied by carts which never have to come inside the camp at all. Their contents are finally deposited in the refuse hole and rubbish heap belonging to the town at three miles distance. The general condition of the camp was extremely clean and orderly.

3. *Housing.*—Marquees, bell tents, and buck-sail houses. The distance from pole to pole of the bell tents is 30 feet. It would have been better to have had them 45 feet apart. The order for lifting tent flaps is well carried out. The average number in a bell tent is between four and five.

4. *Grocery Rations* are issued weekly on a system not previously found in any camp. A duplicate set of canvas and calico bags is provided, and every family receives each article comprised in the rations in these bags, and must bring back the duplicate set clean and folded before the new ration can be issued. The plan was invented by a former issuer. The advantage of it is that the weighing out of the rations is not done while the people are waiting to receive them, but beforehand. The ration room is surrounded by a number of large pigeon holes, each of which contains bags of a given weight of sugar, flour, coffee, &c. Pigeon hole A., for instance, would contain bags holding a 5-lb. ration of sugar; B., 8 lbs., and so on. The actual service of the ration is done very quickly, and the Superintendent has had no difficulty in enforcing the rule, that the people should bring back their empty bags clean and in good order.* A larger weight of coffee is allowed to each ration since it was issued in the raw berry. Milk (condensed) mixed with boiled water is issued to all children under six years old, and to old people and invalids on the doctor's orders. There is a rule that the milk bottles must be brought back clean, but they are always scalded again in salt and water. The issuer told the Commission that he used five tins of Ideal milk to three gallons of water It was represented to him that this was an unduly large proportion of water and he was recommended to increase the proportion of milk, which he promised to do. Of late there had been no cow's milk even for the hospital. Medical comforts are issued from the ration store and a record is kept in the ration book as to who receives them.

The meat ration is issued twice a week. Since the meat has been so very thin and poor, corned beef had been issued alternately with fresh meat; but fairly good fresh beef had been given for the last three weeks. There was no soup kitchen. Oxtails, liver, &c. had been given away as an extra ration.

5. *Kitchens.*—There are four public ovens for baking bread, and a few families share baking-ovens. With these exceptions all the cooking is done separately by each family.

* NOTE.—To make this method of issuing safe, all the bags should be boiled by a responsible official of the camp between each issue.

6. *Fuel.*—Both wood and coal are served out twice weekly. There is no definite weight for each ration, but we heard no complaints that it was insufficient.

7. *The Slaughter-place* is between 1½ and 2 miles from the camp. It belongs to the military and the town and is under the control of the former.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—With the exception of Mafeking this camp has a smaller proportion of people sleeping on the ground than any other yet visited by the Commission.

The Superintendent has procured and issued to the people a large number of half and quarter sections of tent flooring. These are lifted up on stones or boxes and form simple bedsteads; a good number of the people have also made themselves kartels. The Superintendent has issued wood for this purpose and there are men in camp who make them for sale. We were informed that the presence of white ants in this camp accounts for the objection of the people to sleeping on the ground. If this be true the Commission would be inclined to look upon a plague of ants in other camps as a blessing in disguise.

A large number of blankets have been issued but no waterproof sheets.

9. *Clothing* is given to those who need it. The camp matron, Mrs. Badrian, who came about a month ago, investigates applications for clothing, and the Superintendent gives an order on Poynton's stores on her recommendation.

10. *The Stores* are Poynton's, under the usual regulations. The Superintendent gives passes pretty freely to go into the town, where there are good shops. Poynton's store is very well stocked with the usual goods. Lemon syrup is said to be very popular. Epsom salts are sold as a tonic.

11. *The Hospital* staff consists of:—

1 medical officer, Colonel Robinson
1 matron.
6 local assistants from the camp.
1 dispenser.
Servants.

There are 36 beds contained in six E.P. tents; one of these tents is not at present in use; the sides were off and the floor is being renewed. About 20 patients were in the hospital at the date of our visit; these were nearly all suffering from the sequelæ of measles or from malaria. From the formation of the camp till October 10th there have been 54 cases of malaria treated in hospital; of these 16 were members of one family coming from Komati Poort; they brought the malaria with them.

This is the first camp hospital in which we have found cases of malaria, and two cases of empyema following pleuro-pneumonia were also new to our experience of camp hospitals. It has already been mentioned that this is the first camp which we have found to be absolutely free from enteric.

The hospital tents are clean and airy, the floors are made of disintegrated granite, and are renewed from time to time. The patients look comfortable and well cared for. One of the local assistants sleeps in each tent and the orderly in the men's tent. A cottage close to the hospital tents is used as a consulting room and out-patients department by the doctor, and it also contains rooms for the matron and dispenser, and a mess room (not at all a good one) for the assistants.

Colonel Robinson, M.O., sees patients in his consulting room; he is very strict about insisting on serious cases coming into hospital. The cases in the lines are discovered by the camp matron and her assistants and are reported to the doctor. There is a liberal supply of hospital comforts, but one of the doctor's rules is that any one ill enough to require brandy and port wine must come into hospital. Here, as in other camps, the doctor and nurses have had much to contend with in the ignorance of the people and their dirty habits. A child was in hospital during our visit who was discovered in its mother's tent suffering from double pneumonia. The mother had covered its chest and stomach with varnish, traces of which

were still visible. The doctor keeps all his poisons under lock and key, and informed us that he never used them even in liniments; his reason was that his Boer patients always drank their lotions. One woman had swallowed 2 ounces of soap liniment. It had made her violently sick, but fortunately had produced no other bad consequences.

Another difficulty arises in this as in other camps from the long-continued concealment of serious illness. A child died in this camp who had never been seen during its illness by the doctor. When it was dead he was requested to give a certificate, which he declined to do. He hoped that thereby a post-mortem would have been rendered necessary, but there is no provision for this under the Transvaal law unless foul play is suspected.

The hospital is not well provided with cows milk.

An additional supply of flannel and flannelette for nightdresses are required, and also some waterproof sheeting.

Every patient in hospital is rationed on 1 lb. of meat daily, ½ lb. of vegetables, 2 ozs. of butter, besides flour, oatmeal, and a liberal supply of all medical comforts ordered by the doctor.

Everything connected with the hospital was in good order, latrines clean and well kept, the mortuary well arranged and clean. There was a boiler for enteric sheets, and a furnace for burning enteric stools, although, as already mentioned, there has been up to the present no enteric. The site of the hospital has been well chosen on high ground just above the camp.

12. *The Camp Matron,* Mrs. Badrian, has been already referred to in answer to question 9.

Besides investigating applications for clothing, she visits from tent to tent in the morning, accompanied by an interpreter, to discover cases of sickness. It appeared to us that her work was not sufficiently systematic, and that there was no arrangement to ensure the visiting of the whole camp within a short period; but perhaps she has not been long enough at her work to have organised it thoroughly. The work of the camp matron at Klerksdorp was the best we have at present seen. We have suggested to the Military Governor in Pretoria that it would be a good plan to send newly appointed camp matrons for a week's training under a good matron before they take up their duties.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. Meara, an Irish Wesleyan from Cork, acts as clergyman for the camp. He does not speak Dutch fluently, but he understands it, and the people spoke very warmly of the value of his ministrations. He was ill when we were in Barberton, but we saw him in his house. He has a Wesleyan church in Barberton town, and is much respected. He is said to possess great influence with our soldiers.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—The Superintendent had had no difficulty in these matters. He sometimes stopped sugar out of the rations or withheld passes to go into the town, but the need for doing this was quite exceptional. There had been a few unruly people, but on the whole they were very quiet and docile. The camp was strictly out of bounds for all military camps and *vice versâ;* 12 burgher police were on duty, 8 by day and 4 by night, to see that no one without a pass either went into or came out of the camp.

15. *Education.*—The school had been started on June 1st. The headmaster, Mr. Marren, was also headmaster of the school in the town. He had four assistants in the school in camp, one man and three women. When we first visited the school at about 9.30 Mr. Marren had not arrived. Two of the assistants speak English very imperfectly. The teaching was feeble. The best of the teachers was a girl of 16. To illustrate the imperfect English of the male assistant it may be mentioned that in giving an object lesson on the cow, he said, "What does we use from the cow?" Except in reply to very simple questions, few children answered at all. Standard III. was the highest, and only four children had reached it. We do not think the plan of having one headmaster between the town and the camp school conduces to the efficiency of the latter. The building in which the camp school is held is a very large room; it is not partitioned off for the various classes, which is a disadvantage. Altogether the school at Barberton did not reach as high a level of excellence as could be wished. The children had not the

alert, eager look which we have noticed with so much pleasure in several other camp schools. There is a harmonium in the schoolroom, but we understood this was used for services on Sundays and not in the school. There were means of ventilating the room, but they were not being made sufficient use of. The children were clean and fairly well clothed (a few were barefooted). There are 240 on the books.

16. *Occupations.*—The inmates of the camp had made all the desks and forms in use in the school. Wood had been issued for making kartels, and and the Superintendent said he would gladly promote the making of veldt-schoens in camp if he could obtain the necessary materials.

17. *Orphans* were taken care of by their relatives.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died:*—

——	Under 1 year.	Under 5.	Under 12.	Under 25.	Over 25.	Total.
February	—	1	1	—	—	2
March	—	—	—	1	—	1
April	2	2	—	—	—	4
May	1	—	1	—	—	2
June	1	—	—	1	1	3
July	7	6	2	2	—	17
August	16	46	9	1	5	77
September	17	36	6	1	2	62
TOTAL	44	91	19	6	8	168

August, 2 natives. September 7 natives.

In the first ten days of October 6 had died, all children.

20. *How many Women had asked leave to join Friends not in Camp?*—Very few. The Superintendent met them as far as possible, but the Commandant of the place to which they wished to go had to be consulted and his permission obtained.

21. *Servants* are allowed and are rationed on native scale. They would be requisitioned for Government work if required. There are about 100 natives in camp altogether and they have a little location of their own close to the Agricultural Society's showroom, now used as the school.

22. Shrouds and coffins had been provided in every case.

GENERAL REMARKS.

There are about 50 persons drawing rations who are living in the town. Some of these are extremely well dressed, and look as if they ought to be self-supporting. One, a Mrs. Van de B., pushed her way up to the meat rationing place saying she must be served very quickly as she was in a great hurry, and had an invalid waiting for her at home. She had not brought her ration ticket with her. She was served out of her turn on these representations, and we saw her dawdling about the camp a full hour afterwards.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) To appoint an experienced English teacher to be headmaster of the school, and to strengthen the teaching staff.

(2.) Not to increase the numbers in this camp without providing a new water supply; there is danger of the present supply running short.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, VRYBURG, FRIDAY, 23RD AUGUST 1901.

The Commission visited this camp to-day; it is about two miles from the station, half a mile from the town, and close to a large hospital now being used as a military hospital. The situation of the camp was not good; it was in a sort of dip with higher ground all round, but it was close to a good water supply, and also near a good hospital. On subsequent inquiry we learned that the position of the camp had been a difficulty. It was necessary to place it inside the redoubt and also near the water supply. Vryburg had been a great rebel centre and even now, with every precaution, men and boys escape from the camp to give information to the enemy when important military movements are in contemplation. When we arrived we asked for the Superintendent and were informed he was away in Kimberley, giving evidence in a trial for high treason. He is a local farmer, many years resident in the district. His name is Hanney. The gatekeeper, Van Rensburg, had been left in charge during his absence. The camp was formed on July 1st and now consists of 458 people. It is what is called an "unauthorised" camp, and it seems to be uncertain what Government it is under, whether Transvaal, Orange River Colony, or Cape Colony. No register of deaths was kept and no reports sent in. (27th August. We learn the camp is under the control of the general commanding the district, *i.e.* Lord Methuen.) When we arrived we were immediately surrounded by a crowd of people making complaints. The burden of these was that the camp consisted of Transvaalers and Bechuanaland people, and that the Transvaalers were very much better treated than those from Bechuanaland. The Bechuanaland people got inferior rations of meat and no fuel. Neither the Transvaalers nor the Bechuanalanders got soap in their rations. The people said there was no school, no clergyman (an inmate of the camp named Van Tonder conducted services, but he was not a fully qualified clergyman), no nurse, no doctor, and much sickness in camp. We inquired the number of deaths; they said there had been one last week (on subsequent inquiry we found this was correct, but was the only death which had taken place in the camp; it was that of a boy of seven, who had died of croup). As there seemed to be no one in authority at that moment in the camp, one of us drove back to Vryburg and called on Colonel Murray, officer commanding the Vryburg district; he almost immediately joined us, accompanied by his Provost Marshal, Lieut. Miller, and a very intelligent young sergeant in the Cape Police named Donovan, who had been born in Natal of Irish parents and spoke Dutch perfectly.

In regard to the difference in the rations served out to the Bechuanalanders and Transvaalers it was pointed out to us that the Bechuanalanders, being resident in Cape Colony, were rebels, members of whose families were still on commando, whilst the Transvaalers were ordinary belligerents. We urged that Mr. Brodrick had given a distinct assurance in the House of Commons that the difference in rations between those whose relatives were still on commando and those who were not should cease. We pressed this as strongly as we could on Colonel Murray, who received all our suggestions in the most friendly spirit. He said he would at once order soap to be given out with the regular rations and in the afternoon he called on us at the railway station and said he had determined at once to abandon the difference in the scale of rations between the Bechuanalanders and the Transvaalers. He was most anxious to start a school, and had made preparations for engaging teachers, &c., but had failed to get the necessary authorisation. We gathered that the difficulty arose from Vryburg being an "unauthorised" camp. We promised to guarantee the school for one month (in all probability this guarantee will be taken over by the Victoria League, and a communication on this point was posted to Mr. Fairbairn on Saturday, August 24th). Colonel Murray is already taking steps to start the school; books and slates have been ordered, and the school is to be started on Monday, 26th. We find a few of the children, both boys and girls, attend the ordinary school in Vryburg.

The fact of there being no clergyman and no doctor requires explanation. The clergyman of the Dutch Reformed Church in Vryburg has been sent away as an "undesirable." Van Tonder, now a refugee in the camp,

conducts the service in the Dutch Reformed Church in Vryburg every Sunday morning, and the people from the camp can attend. He also conducts a service for old people, and invalids who cannot walk, in the camp on Sunday afternoon; so the people in the camp are in the same position as the Dutch residents in Vryburg as regards clerical administrations.

As regards the doctor, the District Surgeon and Railway Doctor of Vryburg, Dr. Nugent, had attended the camp regularly till quite recently, when he had broken his ankle. Since this accident the camp had been attended daily by the military surgeon, Dr. Fell, who is also the doctor at the adjacent hospital. Dr. Fell comes down to the camp every morning at 9.30. The patients well enough to walk come to him in a tent set apart for the purpose, and he then visits, in their own tents, those confined to bed. We received some complaints of his not having come to tents when patients were in bed and too big to be carried to the "out-patient" tent. He is not paid for his work, and at first declined to undertake it; he only consented to do so when Colonel Perkins put the order in writing which relieved Dr. Fell of responsibility for using Army drugs. He said the health of the camp had been good; there had been one case of measles and two of scarlet fever. In all cases the entire family had been isolated and there had been no more cases in six weeks. Enteric cases he had removed to hospital. No one is in hospital now. Dr. Fell said he had not ordered the issue of any medical comforts. The issue of milk to children in ordinary rations was liberal. He said he had no responsibility for the sanitary condition of the camp, except to prevent it from becoming a source of danger to the town and to our soldiers. As a matter of fact, however, he visited latrines daily and looked after other sanitary matters, such as removal of rubbish. Dr. Nugent was resuming work in camp, and on both days of our being in Vryburg we saw him hobbling about on crutches. There is a very bitter feeling in Vryburg on the part of the loyalists against the camp. This, no doubt, is due to their having suffered so severely from the rebels at the beginning of the war. This, in itself, would weigh in favour of the removal of the camp, as would also the military objections noted on page 161.

After our formal visit on Friday, August 23rd, two members of the Commission revisited the camp on Saturday afternoon, and they were impressed by the increased cheerfulness in the aspect of the camp. There had been several hours' heavy rain in the night, which had produced a delightful change in the atmosphere and in the soil; every one in the camp spoke of the lovely ("mooi") rain with thankfulness. Children were playing "horses" with shouts of fun and merriment. Men and women were sitting outside their tents smoking and drinking tea or coffee. There was more industry, too, going forward; one man was making a table, another a henroost. (Fowls are allowed in camp.)

Colonel Murray has recently been asked if he had water supply enough to receive 500 more people at this camp; he replied that water supply was the one thing which was practically unlimited. He told us that many of the people now in the camp had owned large herds of cattle. These had been sold by auction and he now held bank certificates to the value of 2,000*l*., which he would hand to the owners of the cattle at the end of the war. Against people in this position it would be reasonable to keep an account of rations served to them, and deduct it from the sum finally made over to them. Before he left us, after his second visit, Colonel Murray thanked the Commission and said their visit had been a great help to them.

Two incidents may be noted bearing on the position of coloured people:—

1. When the Commission first visited camp they observed a coloured boy chasing white children with a sjambok, of which he made vigorous use.
2. On one of the visits to a house inhabited by a refugee she narrated how she had been hurried away from her farm, and the English soldiers had told her she could come back and fetch her things, that nothing would be destroyed, that all her furniture, clothes, &c. would be safe. Notwthstanding this, the farm and house had been looted and everything destroyed, she thought by *natives*,

because footprints of naked feet were found all round the place. Donovan (who was going round with us and was extremely gentle and friendly in his manner to the people, always addressing the women as "tante") put in, "Natives always hate them people."

1. *Water Supply.*—The water supply is good. It is taken from an excellent strong spring which supplies the town camp with drinking water. There is also at the entrance of the camp a well, 40 feet deep, covered with a movable lid and a rope and windlass for drawing the water; this was not in perfect order; the spring, too, was inefficiently protected. A member of the Commission found the surrounding ground trampled by animals, and a dead sheep lying just at the source. This was reported to the town commissioners. Washing of clothes is done in the river in the same place as that used by the people of Vryburg.

2. *Sanitation.*—The pail system is used. There are three latrines, one made of wood and iron and two built of kopje stones with no roof, and screens instead of doors. The first one was very dirty but the two last named had clean sanded floors and were well kept. This accommodation is altogether insufficient and may be one reason for the fouling of the ground just outside the camp. We pointed out that this was a distinct source of danger and were informed that it was intended to increase the accommodation at once. The ground inside the camp was clean. Dry rubbish is collected on two large heaps and carted away twice a week to the town "dumping ground." There were no receptacles for "wash water," which was probably thrown on the ground; we strongly advised that separate receptacles for dry and wet refuse should be placed at intervals through the camp and emptied frequently.

No slaughter-place is required as the camp is supplied with meat.

3. *Housing.*—The great majority are in new bell tents, but there are two or three small houses. The tents did not let in rain at all during several hours of heavy rain while we were in Vryburg, so that the rain was hailed in camp as a blessing. The standard of neatness and order in the tents was good.

4. *Rations.*—The difference in scale of rations between Transvaalers and Bechuanalanders is to be abandoned from date of Commission's visit. The supply of tinned milk is liberal: it is served out as a regular ration to all children under six. The present meat supply is good, but they have had a good many "concertina" sheep. When this is the case the weight of meat ration has been increased.

5. *Kitchens.*—All by families.

6. *Fuel.*—Wood is henceforth to be served out as a ration to everyone in camp, not, as formerly, to Transvaalers only. They supplement wood ration with "mist."

7. *Slaughter-places.*—The same as for Vryburg on the other side of the town.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—No beds or bedding had been served out at all. There was, therefore, every variety from good large bedsteads and excellent bedding to shake-downs on the floor.

9. *Clothing.*—No clothing had been served out. On the second day on which the camp was visited (Saturday afternoon, August 24th) many of the women were extremely well dressed in good stuff gowns with silk fronts, &c. No doubt some are very badly off for clothes.

10. *Stores.*—Prices are regulated by competition with the Vryburg shops. Candles are cheaper (9*d.* a packet as compared with 1*s.* in Mafeking).

11. *Hospital Accommodation.*—Already dealt with.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Camp matron would be most valuable. The Commission believe that one with a knowledge of nursing would be the most suitable.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Already dealt with.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—As regards discipline, Lieutenant Miller informed us that when people came with complaints they were told they would not be attended to unless their tents and the ground immediately round them were neat and clean. The general appearance of the ground in camp was very neat, but Colonel Murray said he had ordered a special tidying up in anticipation of our visit. As to moral conduct he said there was nothing to complain of.

15. *Education.*—Already referred to. A man in the camp named Meyburg had done a little teaching.

16. *Occupations.*—Some are employed in Vryburg.

17. *Orphans.*—There are none.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Return of Ages of those who have Died.*—One boy aged seven.

20. *How many Women have availed themselves of Permission to Leave.*—About a dozen, but the greater number only wish to go to Vryburg.

21. *Compare Civilian Diet, Death Rate, Prices.*—Dr. Wilson M. Nugent furnished the following return :—

VRYBURG.

1,000 white population.
2,000 black population.

During Last Six Months.

30 white deaths.
100 black deaths.

(Signed) WILSON M. NUGENT,
District Surgeon.

Death-rate of whites is therefore 60 per 1,000; that of blacks 100 per 1,000.

22. *Servants.*—A few have servants.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. That the rations issued should be on the same scale for all classes of white persons in the camp.

2. Fuel and soap to form part of all rations.

3. School to be formed.

4. The spring to be protected from contamination, and the well covered in and pump provided for it.

5. Disposal of refuse; receptacles for dust and for slopwater to be provided (the two classes of refuse not to be mixed). The receptacles to be emptied into carts and carried away as often as practicable. A simple form of destructor used for dry refuse if possible.

(*Note.*—The construction of such a destructor was verbally explained to Colonel Murray.)

6. In cases of sickness, candles, milk, &c. might be served out as "medical comforts." (We note that milk is now served as ration for children under six years.)

7. If a camp matron is appointed, she should select a suitable number of responsible women from among the inmates of the camp to each of whom should be entrusted the daily visiting of, say, two lines of tents. These

women should report to the matron cases of sickness and other matters requiring attention.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, VRYBURG (SECOND VISIT), NOVEMBER 1901.

This is a completely different camp from the one we visited here on August 23rd. From an "unauthorised" it has become an "authorised" camp under the Transvaal Administration. It has been shifted from its old site to a better one on higher ground and on a good slope. A new Superintendent, Mr. Pritchard, has been in charge since October 1st. The former numbers have been nearly trebled, and the camp contained, on November 4th, 204 men, 430 women, and 518 children (of whom 290 were under six), total 1,152. Besides these there are 117 persons, mostly loyalists, receiving rations in the town.

1. *Water Supply.*—Besides the fountain (which is the same as the town supply) and the well in the old camp—both of which are being used as drinking water—a new well is now being sunk beyond the upper (north) end of the new camp; the depth already reached on November 4th was 18 feet, and there were favourable indications of a good supply being shortly reached. While we were in camp the well sinkers came upon a stratum of soapstone which Mr. Pritchard said was a certain indication of water. The hospital is supplied by a water cart, which fills a tank with water drawn from town supply.

The Washing-place was a very dirty open furrow. No washing tables were provided. Part of the furrow was carefully enclosed by a barbed wire fence, but immediately above the place where the fence stopped, pigs were wallowing in the water. Mr. Pritchard said he would put a stop to this.

There are no bath-houses. We recommend zinc baths in bell tents, as at Krugersdorp, with a trench and drain to carry away the waste water, and Mr. Pritchard made a note of it and promised to act upon it. He has 136 extra tents in stock, and could use some old ones as bath-tents. He is not provided with any tanks for boiling drinking water. There is already a good deal of enteric in camp. Last week Mr. Pritchard reported to Pretoria 15 *cases* of enteric then sick in hospital.

2. *Sanitary System.*—Pails—emptied daily by the Vryburg Local Board. The disinfecting of the pails is supposed to be done by the camp sanitary staff, which consists of a refugee, Mr. Van Bergen—paid 3*s.* 4*d.* a day—with one Kaffir boy and one white man to help him. The latrines were very foul smelling, and the disinfecting of the pails does not appear to be thoroughly done. The latrines in the new camp are of corrugated iron and are not of a good pattern. There is no flap opening behind the pails; therefore each has to be carried some distance through the latrine to be emptied. This increases the risk of fouling the ground. There were no seats in the men's latrines, and no special accommodation for children. This latter should be provided.

There are four "authorised" dust heaps just outside the limits of the camp, not well kept; the ground of the camp was littered with old tins, scraps of paper, &c. There should have been some smaller dust bins within the camp, made either of corrugated iron or of kopje stones, of which there are plenty in the immediate neighbourhood. Mr. Pritchard expressed a high opinion of Van Bergen, who holds the post of Sanitary Inspector in camp, but he evidently has not a high standard of order and cleanliness. There were no special provisions for the disposal of slop water, which was probably thrown out upon the ground.

3. *Housing.*—All bell tents, including the Superintendent's office. The tents are as yet unnumbered. Mr. Pritchard said he tried not to put more than 5 in a tent, but on visiting in camp in the afternoon we found one tent

with 12 people in it; two with 10, and two with nine. These were new arrivals, and on speaking to Mr. Pritchard on the subject he said he was about to give these families more accommodation. The rule about the lifting of flaps is that it must be done on two days in each week, and fair days are chosen. Van Bergen is supposed to look after this. The camp matron, Mrs. Nash, said she sometimes went round after dark to take medicines or medical comforts to those sick in tents, and invariably found the tents with every cranny closed and smelling very foul. When measles cases are nursed in tents this habit in itself is enough to explain the spread and the virulence of the infection. The trenching of the camp was still proceeding and seemed to be done on a good principle, with diagonal small trenches from each tent into the large trench. The camp is well pitched with wide roadways, some 70 feet and some 50 feet wide between the double rows of tents. A wood and iron dispensary and dwelling-house for the doctor are now being built, and also two kitchens—one for the hospital and one for the staff. These latter are of sun-dried bricks and of stone, respectively, and form one block close to the hospital marquees. Mr. Pritchard considers that he has an unusually small proportion of able-bodied men in his camp. He lately received 205 refugees from Lobatsi, all of whom were women, with the exception of two men aged respectively 84 and 60. In the census every male over 12 is called a "man," and he enters 204 "men" on his returns, but he says he has only 77 able-bodied men. Of these 45 are working for him in the camp, 18 are in the contact camp, and a few are working in town. He referred to this to explain how it was he had not been able to get the work he had in hand done more quickly.

4. *Rations.*—This day (Monday, November 4th) was the first on which Mr. Pritchard was issuing rations from his own stores. Hitherto the camp had received stores from the A.S.C. The rations were being issued from a marquee. There was no sort of system, and the issue to this small camp of 223 tents was still going on when we left at about 5 o'clock, it having commenced early in the morning. There were two issuers and one checker; they had two sets of scales and weights. There was only one very small opening at which the people approached the issuers, and they all came and went from the same place. Mr. Pritchard said he meant to adopt a better plan and to call up the people for rations according to the numbers of their tents; first 1 to 50, then 51 to 100, and so on. At present the rationing day for groceries is Monday. We asked Mr. Pritchard to make it Saturday, so as not to withdraw the children from school. Meat is issued twice a week. What we saw was very fairly good. Fresh milk, five gallons a day, has been secured for the hospital; no ration of milk was issued, but it was given on doctor's orders as a medical comfort. A few of the refugees (about six families) have some stock of their own from which they get a little milk. Mr. Pritchard complained very much of coffee in the raw bean having been sent him. Very few of the people have coffee mills; there are only 42 in the whole camp, and the fuel ration is very small. He did not think the people could possibly make it do if they had to roast their own coffee.

5. *Kitchens.*—Two sets of public ovens have been put up, but are not yet in use. There are five ovens in each, 4 feet by 3 feet in size. A corporal will be placed in charge, and the fuel will be provided by the Superintendent. He reckons that these 10 ovens ought to be enough to bake all the bread required in camp. They will be kept going all day long. Mr. Pritchard thought the ovens would be ready to use before the end of the present week.

6. *Fuel.*—The fuel ration is extremely small, 1 lb. of wood per head per day. We saw the week's ration for a family of five; it was one log about 6 inches in diameter by about 3 feet 6 inches long. Coal is sometimes given, but when it is, it is in lieu of wood, not in addition to it. This appears to the Commission an impossibly small fuel ration. No doubt the public bake-ovens will be a great assistance to the people, but, even with their help, more fuel ought to be given to enable the people to cook their food properly. There is very little mist to be had in the neighbourhood, and the roots of the thorn bushes, which make good fuel, are getting very scarce. The great scarcity of

fuel makes it of importance not to serve the people with raw coffee. The one complaint we heard in the tents was of the scarcity of fuel. Too little fuel means half-cooked food, and half-cooked food is a great cause of sickness.

7. *Slaughter-place.*—A few people in camp, who have their own cattle, have been allowed to slaughter at a place about ¼ mile away; but the general meat ration is slaughtered by the military authorities at a place 4 miles away on the other side of the station.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—A great many people, the later arrivals especially, are very badly off for beds and bedding. We verified this by personal inspection. Mr. Pritchard is going to have a carpenter's shop and get kartels made in it. He has wood. In the meantime a large proportion of the people are sleeping on the ground. A few blankets have been issued, but no waterproof sheets.

9. *Clothing.*—No Government clothing has been distributed. Three cases have arrived, as a private gift, from Kimberley; they were sent to a refugee, who has been told by Mr. Pritchard to hand over their contents for distribution to Mrs. Nash, the camp matron. Nearly all the newcomers whom we saw were in rags.

10. *Shops.*—There was a shop in the old camp kept by Olivier & Co. of Vryburg; but it is now to be superseded by Poynton, from Pretoria. This was causing great soreness and bitterness among the Vryburg tradespeople, who did not see why they should not be allowed to open shop in camp. There is at all times a very bitter feeling between the town and camp, and this is intensified by giving the camp store to a Pretoria firm. Vryburg is not in the Transvaal.

11. *Hospital.*—Seven marquees and a few bell tents. Two marquees and one bell tent are reserved for enteric only. There is no boiler for enteric sheets and no destructor for enteric stools. In the present great dearth of fuel, the medical officer, Dr. McCulloch (from the Plague Hospital, Cape Town), does not recommend the latter. Unless there is plenty of fuel, so that the combustion can be complete and thorough, the doctor thinks the destructor would be a new source of danger rather than the reverse. Besides the enterics, nearly all the other cases in hospital are measles, or the sequelæ of measles. A good many of the beds contained two children—one at the head and one at the foot; 42 more beds have been ordered. The staff consists of one medical officer, Dr. McCulloch, arrived on November 1st; one matron, nurse Payne; three trained nurses, two of whom have just arrived; and 14 Dutch probationers, who are paid 1*s.* 6*d.* a day, and have a simple uniform over-all. There were 56 patients in the hospital on November 4th. Besides the hospital, there are a quarantine camp and a contact camp. The convalescents pass first into the quarantine or convalescent camp, where they stay 14 days; they are then moved into the contact camp, where they stay another 14 days; after that, if there is no fresh illness, they go back to their tents. The contact camp is primarily for the families in which there have been cases of infectious illness. The rations for the contact camp are not drawn till the last; and then two or three men draw for the whole, and remove the rations in wheelbarrows or small hand-carts. The tents in which infectious illness has been found are struck, and the ground disinfected. The surrounding tents, if dirty, are also removed. There is no disinfecting hut or chamber. On November 4th, the number of sick in contact camp was 11; in the quarantine camp, 7. The medical and nursing staff have made a very praiseworthy effort to get all cases of serious illness (including measles) into hospital. A member of the Commission, however, found two cases of measles concealed in one of the tents. They were at once ordered to be sent to the hospital. The late medical officer, Dr. Faber, had been in the habit of ordering a great deal of alcohol to his patients, and had authorised the nurses to give it without his signing for it. Dr. McCulloch has altered this, and now no stimulants are given except on specific order from the medical officer. The nurses received field force rations, and they will as soon as possible be provided with a proper kitchen, with 1*l.* 10*s.* a month for paying a cook, a good marquee as a mess room, and other comforts. There will have to be a separate mess for

the relief matron and her staff. The hospital is very short of waterproof sheeting and mosquito netting. We recommended the doctor and Superintendent to feed up the convalescent children as long as they were in the convalescent and contact camps. We saw several who looked very feeble and anæmic. The doctor told us of a family which had been on trek with a commando. They had lost 10 children out of 11 with dysentery, while on their travels before coming into camp.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Mrs. Nash is at present acting as camp matron. Dr. Kendal Franks has recommended that there should be both a camp matron and a relief matron; the camp matron to be a trained nurse, and to seek out cases of sickness in the tents, and to bring the doctor to all those who require him; the relief matron to be responsible for the finding out of cases of destitution, and the distribution of clothing, &c. If one of the newly arrived trained nurses is made camp matron, Mrs. Nash will become relief matron.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Mr. Pritchard himself conducts services. There are two elders in the camp, Van Tonder and Woolman, who visit the sick, &c. A Church of England clergyman from Vryburg has baptised children. The Dutch Reformed clergyman of Vryburg has lately been sentenced to twelve months' imprisonment. Mr. Pritchard said that when the camp numbered 2,000 he should apply for a regular minister.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—No difficulty. There had been some resistance to sending children to hospital, but this had been overcome. Concealment of sickness, however, still goes on.

15. *School.*—No school at present. The school started by Colonel Murray went on very satisfactorily till it was stopped in consequence of the outbreak of measles. Mrs. Shelton (unqualified) and her daughter (qualified) conducted it. Two inspectors from Pretoria had lately visited Vryburg camp, and Mr. Pritchard believed that the old staff had been provisionally re-engaged, together with a new headmaster from Taungs. The school buildings are not yet in existence. There are to be three school shelters, 30 feet by 22 feet. It is a pity to see the large number of children idling in camp who ought to be at school.

16. *Occupations.*—The building, brickmaking, carpentering, well-sinking, and trenching, &c. for the new camp, give more employment than can well be got through at present. There are two classes of workers in camp: those who work for fixed hours, from 7 to 8, from 8.30 to 12, and from 2 to 5. These get 1*s.* 6*d.* a day. And those who may be called on to work at any time, night or day, Sundays included. These get 1*s.* 9*d.* a day. Two carpenters are paid 2*s.* a day.

17. *Orphans.*—Taken by relatives or friends.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Ages of those who have Died.*—

Month.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5.	5 to 12.	12 to 20.	Over 20.	Total.
October	18	19	9	4	5	55
November 1st to 4th	2	5	1	1	2	11
TOTALS	20	24	10	5	7	66

20. *Women asking to Leave.*—Only one; she wanted to live in Vryburg and request was granted.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes; they are rationed if they are refugees, not otherwise.

22. Shrouds had not been provided at the expense of the administration. Coffins had always been provided covered with black calico. Formerly, burials took place in town cemetery, but now the camp has its own cemetery, 1,000 yards away. It is about to be enclosed.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Open the school with as little delay as possible in a marquee, if the new shelters cannot be got ready.

2. Issue a ration of one bottle of milk (made with boiled water and condensed milk in the proportion of one tin to three bottles) daily to every child under three.

3. Provide boilers for boiling all drinking water.

4. Use more disinfectants in the latrines and for cleansing the pails, and provide low seats for children.

5. Put up some bell tents with zinc baths inside as bath-houses.

6. Increase the ration of fuel.

7. Provide the hospital with waterproof sheeting and feeding cups.

8. Boil the enteric sheets.

9. More thorough scavenging of camp is required, and enclose the dust heaps by putting up walls of stone or corrugated iron.

10. Provide simple washing tables (as at Barberton) near the washing furrow.

11. Put up a disinfecting hut of sods or sun-dried bricks.

12. Tent flaps should be raised every fine day.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, MAFEKING (FIRST VISIT), 20TH AND 21ST AUGUST 1901.

Mr. R. L. McCowat met us at his office in the camp on Tuesday morning, August 20th. We first had a long conversation with him, asking him questions. He then took us round the camp. The next day we devoted to visiting the tents by ourselves or with interpreters. We went through the 22 points mentioned in the foregoing paper and gained the following information:—

The camp until recently had been at Willow Dam, about seven miles from Mafeking. It had been moved, partly on military and partly on sanitary considerations. The present camp is defended by three forts, and is within easy reach of Mafeking, with which it is connected by telephone.

1. *Water Supply.*—There are 15 wells, 10 to 15 feet deep; after about two or three feet of surface sand these are in limestone rock. The wells are built round with a bank, covered with wooden covers and provided with pumps. Three of the last made wells are uncovered owing to lack of material with which to cover them. The water supply is not ideal, but the camp has increased very rapidly (at the date of our visit it numbered 4,271, viz., 757 men, 1,549 women, and 1,935 children), and the Superintendent felt "it was "better to have second or third rate water than no water at all." The wells are now at the bottom of the camp, near the river. If he had tried to make them at the top of the camp he would have had more limestone to go through, and the supply of water would have been uncertain.

The women were washing clothes in the river, the banks of which were horribly fouled by human excreta. They had declined altogether to use the washing tubs which Mr. McCowat had placed for them. As for personal cleanliness, many of them had foot pans and baths. Our own observation showed that there was as much variation in the degree of personal and household cleanliness as there would be in an English working-class population. Some were exquisitely clean and neat, others, with the same resources, equally dirty and untidy. There were no public baths. We strongly disapproved of washing in the river under present circumstances.

2. *Sanitary Arrangements.*—There are 16 latrines, and more are being made. The system is one of trenched latrines filled in and covered with chloride of lime at intervals. The trenches are too wide. They are positively

dangerous for children. The ground round the latrines was badly fouled. The veldt outside the fence was also very foul, as was the river bank and the camp generally. Mr. McCowat expressed the strong opinion that enteric fever would never be got rid of in this country until the habits of the people were changed.

The Disposal of Refuse was not satisfactory. There were rubbish and ash heaps all over the camp. With the present supply of carts it takes two days for them to get round the camp and clear these away. Three more carts have been ordered, but the system is unsatisfactory. The rubbish is finally deposited on the veldt, between 100 and 200 yards from the fence. The prevailing wind blows the dust away from the camp. The dust heap is used as a latrine and children play upon it, and search it for odds and ends to use in their play.

3. *Housing.*—The great majority are bell tents. There are some very good marquees and also some good buck-sail houses made over a wooden framework. Mr. McCowat lived in one of these himself. He offered one to any family if they would put up the wood framing. He has ordered 300 from Port Elizabeth. They will give accommodation equal to 600 tents. In the bell tents very few had their flaps up, and the ventilation was very imperfect. There was no overcrowding. A large space was left between the tents, the stand for each tent was 50 feet, and the rule was to supply one tent for a family of five and under, and two tents for a family of six and over.

4. *Rations* were liberal. The old scale which Mr. McCowat was still issuing was—

Old Scale.	New Scale.
1 lb. meat daily.	7 lbs. meat weekly.
1 oz. coffee „	6 ozs. coffee „
2 ozs. jam „	1 lb. rice „
½ oz. salt „	4 ozs. salt „
1/36 pepper „	12 ozs. sugar „
4 lbs. wood „	4 lbs. wood daily.
2 ozs. sugar.	2 lbs. for children.
½ lb. soap.	

Meat is served three times a week at the rate of 1 lb., *without bone*, per ration when available from captured stock. The wood ration, 4 lbs. a day, is twice as much as is allowed our soldiers. Children under 12 have half of everything except soap, of which they have the same as adults. The cost of rations was 1*s.* 3*d.* a day. This is in excess of other camps, and Mr. McCowat expects soon to reduce it. He is getting rid of the contractor and will be able to supply the camp cheaper direct.

A woman in the wired-in part of the camp (for those who have not taken the oath of allegiance) told us she had not received her ration of wood on the previous day, though she had applied for it. We asked the reason and were told she had probably sent after the office was closed. She was using the surplus of her previous day's stock of fuel, which showed that it was not insufficient.

5. *Kitchens.*—All the cooking is done separately by each family.

6. *Fuel.*—Liberal, *see* above.

7. *Slaughter-poles* have only been used for a week. Before that, meat was supplied by the contractor. There was no smell, except inside a tent, from a bundle of skins. The blood was allowed to run on the ground, and later there would be a plague of flies.

Mr. McCowat was informed of this, and was vexed about the neglect. He had ordered a trench to be dug for the blood. He is a good deal understaffed.

8. *Bed Arrangements.*—All in this camp were raised off the ground. Some had beautiful beds and bedding of their own, with embroidered pillows and dyed karosses.

Each tent in the camp had been supplied with at least one bedstead, 2,000 wire mattresses and bedsteads had been served out. Children, however, not infrequently slept on the ground on mattresses and skins.

9. *Clothing.*—Much better than we had expected. There were very few barefoot children. The last lot brought in were, however, very badly off for clothes. Mr. McCowat, who was strongly in favour of the appointment of a camp matron, urged that no one but a woman could properly deal with the question of clothing. He knew he had been imposed upon by women pretending to be much worse off than they were. He had made a large indent for clothing, but his difficulty was to give it out to the right people. He intended to wait until the matron arrived before making a further distribution.

10. *Stores.*—Prices are regulated by competition with the Mafeking shops. Inmates can freely get passes to go into Mafeking. In reply to inquiries Mr. McCowat said: "I let them have a pass whenever they require it. They "are British subjects, and have a right to all reasonable freedom." This applied to those who had taken the oath of allegiance, not to those in the wired-in camp, who are really prisoners. Some are actually prisoners brought up from Green Point.

11. *Hospital Accommodation.*—Very insufficient; two marquees only, each of eight beds, they were full when we were there. There is no isolation tent. Two people had died in hospital in the previous week, both of pneumonia. There are two regular doctors, Dr. Kauffman and Dr. Limpert, and one named Pears or Pearce, a quack, he is a non-allegiance man, and has the confidence of the people, he is supposed to report serious cases to the two doctors. The matron of the hospital, Miss Crawford, is not a fully-trained nurse. She is assisted by one trained nurse, Mrs. Tooth, and by two girls out of the camp, who are, she says, efficient and useful. The people in camp are allowed other doctors if they like to pay for them. Some employ Dr. Hayes, from Mafeking. In reply to inquiries, Miss Crawford said that she was not in want of medical comforts, but had everything that was necessary. She had been a member of a local committee recently formed, but during an illness she had had the committee had quarrelled and gone to pieces and now existed no longer.

Mrs. Vyvyan, wife of Colonel Vyvyan, commandant of Mafeking, promised us to visit the camp regularly and do what she could to help the matron when appointed.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Mr. McCowat not only approved of the appointment of a camp matron, but said he considered it essential. No one, he said, but a woman could deal with the question of women's clothing. (Shortly after leaving Mafeking we heard that a matron had been appointed.)

13. *Minister of Religion.*—There was no minister in the camp at the time of our visit. A Mr. Roode (a very intelligent man and a loyal subject) holds services and visits the sick, but he says the people very much want a clergyman. He performed funeral services. It is very usual that this should be done by laymen in isolated country districts. He was asked if he baptised children, but he said "No"; in their church no one but a regular clergyman could baptise.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—The only discipline Mr. McCowat has used has been stopping for a short time of meat rations. He said: "You can reach "these people through their stomachs"; but it was evident he relied mainly on his personal influence. He said he had nothing to complain of in the moral conduct of the camp. One boy had been committed to prison for stealing. Some of the more careful women in camp had felt that camp life was not good for their daughters, and had got them out into situations. A member of the Commission had seen one of these girls in service in Mafeking, in the house of magistrate's wife.

15. *Education.*—The school is held in a corrugated iron and wood building. It had only opened the day before we came, but the school in the old camp at Willow Dam had been running for some time. The average attendance at

the old school had been 200. In the new school at present it was only 140. The schoolroom was quite full, and more accommodation is needed and is about to be provided. Although the children had been in school two hours when we entered, there was no close smell. The children were well dressed, all wore shoes and stockings, and looked well. The schoolmaster, Mr. Lombard, had two young women under him. The reason why the school in the new camp had not been opened earlier is that the numbers in camp have lately increased so rapidly that the building was required to shelter some of the new-comers. Not long ago, Mr. McCowat had notice on a Sunday that 1,800 would arrive on the following day, and he had to provide shelter for them. He used the schoolroom temporarily and requisitioned a number of military tents in Mafeking. We did not think the school books very suitable. The school is conducted in English, and several of the younger people in camp were very keen to learn English. The schoolroom, when enlarged, could be used as a church.

16. *Occupations.*—Mr. McCowat had tried to start a garden. There is some very suitable land near the river, and he offered the men in camp to fence this, and dig a trench for irrigation and to provide tools and seeds if they would find the labour and grow vegetables for the good of the camp. This they refused; they wanted to keep the produce as their own property, and sell it in Mafeking. We urged him to try again, and to devise some plan to induce the men to work in the garden. Some of the women say they would be thankful if their daughters could be taught dressmaking. But, on the whole, the people are very unwilling to work. One woman had openly said she wished to cost the Government as much as possible. On the other hand another woman was very keen to have a garden, and had already begun to grow parsley near her tent. This, however, was exceptional. We noticed many men and women sitting in a melancholy way, doing absolutely nothing, with their hands before them. Tney would be much happier if they could be induced to work.

17. *Orphans.*—All we saw were being taken care of by friends and relatives.

18. *Local Committees.*—*See* No. 11. Two Boer women said, separately, that if English ladies sent gifts they ought to distribute them themselves; if left to local committees of camp people they gave to their own friends rather than to these most in want.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have died in Camp since March 1st:*—

Month.	Under 1 year.	1 to 5 years.	5 to 12 years.	12 to 15 years.	15 to 25 years.	Over 25 years.	Total.
March	2	2	—	—	—	1	5
April	1	2	—	—	1	—	4
May	1	—	—	—	1	3	5
June	1	1	—	—	1	—	3
July	4	4	—	1	1	—	10
August	2	1	2	1	2	5	13
TOTALS	11	10	2	2	6	9	40

20. *How many Women had applied for Leave to join their Friends not in other Camps?*—One, with three children, had gone to her father in Kimberley.

21. *Compare Civilian Diet, Prices of Food, &c.*—The prices of food in Mafeking were extremely high, cabbages, 2*s.* 6*d.* each; potatoes, 1*d.* each; condensed milk, 1*s.* a tin. While we were there a Martial Law Notice No. 7 was published, fixing the price of tinned milk at 10*d.* a tin and 10*s.* a dozen.

22. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, one woman, who complained bitterly of the rations, was keeping a servant. As no rations are issued for servants this is some evidence of the liberal scale on which they are issued to the Boer inmates of the camp.

Mr. McCowat made a very favourable impression upon us. He took every suggestion we made in good part, and we were struck by his tact in dealing

with the people. In the wire-in camp the men gathered round him complaining that they had sent a message to him in the morning and had received no answer. He had been in his office talking to us nearly all the morning, but he did not say so, he merely remarked, "Who brought the message? "Bring me the man who came with it." Then after a little pause it was discovered that no one had been sent.

Colonel and Mrs. Vyvyan were most kind, and forwarded our work in every possible way. Colonel Vyvyan proposes to start drilling the boys as soon as he has a suitable serjeant. We saw no signs of bitter feeling in Mafeking—town against the camp.

The sifted Boer meal issued in camp makes excellent bread. Mr. McCowat presented us with some loaves of it. There has been some trouble lately about bad meat which had been issued (it had three diseases), and meat rations had for a time been stopped. Meat is very dear and bad all over the Mafeking district. There had also been a time when fuel was very scarce, in consequence of the Boers having seized and destroyed eight trucks of wood at Ootsi, about 40 miles north of Mafeking. The people in the camp had then broken up and burnt a waggon. The punishment for this had been to stop some of the meat rations.

Recommendations.

1. That a camp matron should be appointed. That she should select from the camp a suitable number of responsible women, to each of whom should be entrusted the daily visiting of, say, two rows of tents. These women should report to the matron cases of illness and other matters requiring attention. Each head of a family should be held responsible for the condition of the ground for a given distance round his tent.

2. Dry refuse should be put into cans or buckets, and wet refuse into half casks or buckets. They should not be mixed, and the throwing out of slop water on the ground round the tents should be discontinued.

3. The river should be protected with wire fencing from the pollution, which is at present very serious. Women were found washing clothes in very foul water. The banks of the river are terribly foul, and are a source of danger to this camp.

4. There is no method or material for the systematic disinfection of typhoid urine and excreta; these should be provided as pointed out in circular letter No. 13 of March 14th, 1901.

5. We urge the importance of immediate steps being taken to improve the sanitary condition of the camp and the water supply. We believe that a typhoid epidemic might easily arise under present conditions. It will be seen from enclosed report, drawn up by the professional members of our Commission, that there are already premonitory symptoms of such an epidemic. There are already 10 known cases of typhoid in the camp, and this is the healthiest season of the year.

6. An isolation tent should be provided in readiness for a possible emergency. The hospital accommodation is inadequate, and should be increased.

7. Tents should be turned out weekly and flaps turned up daily, weather permitting; the matron and her assistants could see to this.

8. Another attempt should be made to induce the men in the camp to grow vegetables for camp use in the good garden ground close to the camp.

9. An increase of Mr. McCowat's staff is required, and we recommend the appointment of a resident minister of the Dutch Reformed Church.

10. Condensed milk, which is at present served out only on the doctor's orders as a medical comfort, should be mixed with boiled water before being distributed.

11. Large tanks for boiling water are much needed.

MAFEKING CAMP, 4TH AND 5TH NOVEMBER 1901.

We re-visited this camp on November 4th and 5th, in consequence of information that we had received of its unsatisfactory condition.

On our previous visit (August 20th and 21st) we found the camp (numbering 4,000 persons) had quite recently been moved. It was well pitched on a good site chosen by the Military Commandant. Only 40 deaths had occurred since March, and there was apparently every prospect of a healthy existence provided that certain elementary rules of health were properly carried out; but from what we then saw we felt sure that, unless alterations were made in regard to certain sanitary conditions, the camp would suffer severely from the introduction of any infection, and for this reason we at once made recommendations in writing to the Superintendent—Mr. McCowatt.

On our return (November 4th) we found the camp a prey to a terrible outbreak of disease (measles, enteric, pneumonia, malaria, chicken pox, whooping-cough) which had undoubtedly been fostered and aggravated by the insanitary conditions of which we had complained on our previous visit.

Going carefully through the camp we could not but feel that little or nothing had been done by the Superintendent to carry out our recommendations. On the contrary, the conditions had in some respects deteriorated since our visit, and it was plain that, until the arrival of Dr. Morrow, no real effort had been made to prevent or to cope with the sickness. This had steadily increased until 2,000 cases of disease were registered at one time; 29 deaths had occurred in one day, and over 500 lives had been lost during the 10 weeks since we had left.

We found the place still littered with rubbish, and the innumerable heaps of rags, bones, and infectious refuse which we had shown to be undesirable in our first report.

The indent for receptacles for rubbish, recommended by us on August 20th, was only sent in on October 14th, and meanwhile. the numerous available substitutes at hand had not been used.

The river was not thoroughly fenced nor policed, and was therefore a source of contamination as before.

Two wells in the "North Camp" were still uncovered, and others were in an unsatisfactory condition; the lid of one was not padlocked, and therefore easily opened by the children playing on it; the cement coping in front of others was beginning to decay, and the waste and surface water could leak back into them.

The latrines were still open trenches, quite unsuitable for women and children, and additional latrines had been built on the system which we had pointed out to the Superintendent as unsatisfactory.

Milk was still being issued unmixed with boiled water.

No arrangements for boiling water—disinfection, &c.—had been started until the epidemic was at its height, and the new doctor had arrived.

There was no garden, though the soil and other conditions are peculiarly suitable, the need for fresh vegetables more urgent than ever, and the spring far advanced.

The services of the camp matron (who was sent from headquarters) had not been properly utilised for enforcing sanitary regulations, the airing and cleaning of tents, and the systematic reporting of every case of illness; this was hardly attempted at all until the arrival of Dr. Morrow.

The cemetery, which is not enclosed, had been allowed to encroach within 25 feet of the camp boundary, and the graves in this disease-infected place were dug $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep only; we saw little children engaged in filling them in.

Three large, untidy, rubbish heaps are scattered by this last sad resting-place of over 500 people. There was no mortuary tent for the camp.

Medical comforts had been allowed to run terribly short, and there had been practically no system whatever in their distribution; some of the most important drugs were lacking altogether. For tinned milk—an absolute necessity in a camp composed chiefly of children—the Superintendent had more than once been dependent on the military; while the regulations providing two tins of milk for each child under six years every 10 days was ridiculously inadequate, even if it were systematically carried out.

In our preliminary interview with the Superintendent we learnt that he attributed the introduction of the sickness to the arrival of a large number of people on August 15th. They were brought in by the military from Taungs district in the middle of the night, and, in consequence, were neither examined nor isolated on their arrival; they were temporarily housed in the school and in waggons. There is a conflict of evidence as to whether they were ultimately examined by the late camp doctor; in any case the date of the examination—if it ever took place—cannot be fixed, and no attempt was made to separate this set of people from the main camp. They were lodged in tents supplied by the military in two lines, known as "B. Lines," on the upper side of the camp.

It was impossible not to contrast the attitude and manner of the Superintendent on this occasion with that on our previous visit. He appeared as if incapable of realising the gravity of the situation, and was chiefly anxious to lay the whole responsibility for it on headquarters, reiterating his assertion that he had not been given the help he required. A careful examination of all the correspondence in this connection showed that his assertion was not borne out by facts.

A request to headquarters for an assistant doctor, sent July 22nd, had been quickly attended to, and Dr. Limport arrived on August 6th. He was found to be useless, and on the Superintendent representing this to headquarters, another doctor was immediately promised; but, by cancelling—at the suggestion of Dr. Kaufmann—his request for the removal of his incompetent assistant doctor, the Superintendent incurred a grave responsibility, and must by this instance of vacillation have weakened his position in relation to headquarters. The fulfillment of a requisition for materials (weighing many tons) for the erection of timber and bucksail houses had been, it is true, long delayed for reasons which are quite obvious to anyone who is aware of the great difficulties in railway transport, but this matter is not one which affects the question of the epidemic. Mr. McCowatt is fairly well supplied with tents, and, with proper distribution and arrangement of the occupants, there should be no overcrowding.

From the date of the request for an assistant doctor, on July 22nd (before the outbreak occurred), up to the date of Dr. Morrow's arrival on October 3rd, we found no record of any special appeal from the Superintendent for assistance, nor of any special attempt to grapple with the terrible emergency which had arisen. On the contrary, a telegram sent by the Commission on October 14th, authorising him to start a soup kitchen for the provision of extra nourishment for sickly children, and supplying him with funds for doing so, had not been acted upon on November 4th, because certain specially convenient stoves were not forthcoming. It devolved on us to start the soup kitchen, during the two days we were there, with large kaffir pots which were at hand.

In the middle of the stress, Dr. Kaufmann sent in his resignation, and a competent man, in the person of Dr. Morrow, was promptly sent by headquarters to take his place.

To the advent of Dr. Morrow everything that is now being done appears to be due. He is to all intents and purposes the Superintendent as well as the medical officer.

To him is due the organisation of the hospital staff and work, the requisition for the needful doctors and nurses, medical comforts and drugs.

He has ordered and is enforcing the daily airing of tents, and the thorough weekly "turn out" and cleaning of them. He has organised a proper and systematic distribution of medical comforts, and all this in the space of less than a month, during which he has waged a hand-to-hand struggle with dirt, disease, and disorganisation in the camp. Dr. Morrow is working loyally with the Superintendent, planning and suggesting, and is himself supplying the qualities of resource and initiative which ought to be found in the nominal head of the staff.

A camp matron has been appointed by Dr. Kendal Franks, and Dr. Morrow is organising her work and that of her assistants. She has only just started on her duties, but if they are well carried out, she ought to be an important agent in the health and well-being of the camp. She is at present vigorously engaged in the work of cleaning and disinfecting, which ought to have been

started weeks ago by the then "camp matron" under the Superintendent and late medical officer.

It is obvious that the Superintendent of a camp cannot be expected to organise the details of hospital service, or to decide the best medical treatment of sick persons, and we are aware that in this matter Mr. McCowatt was not assisted as he should have been by his late medical officer, Dr. Kaufmann; but, on the other hand, the Superintendent of a camp is not only directly responsible for its cleanly and sanitary condition (important factors in the health of the people), and for the initiation of special measures to meet special emergencies, but also indirectly for the efficient working of every member of his staff, and it is impossible to acquit him of blame if he fails to note and check any flagrant failure on the part of a subordinate to carry out the duties entrusted to him.

The "relief matron" (lately "camp matron" until the new one arrived, who was appointed by Dr. Kendal Franks) should personally do the work for which she was appointed, namely, investigating cases of need and distributing clothing, with one assistant only. (She now has four paid English assistants.) Unless she adds to her present duties other useful work (such as the creation of sowing classes, &c.), this staff is unnecessarily large, simply for the purpose of distributing clothing. She might start sewing classes, in which the underclothing sorely needed in the hospital, and by the camp matron for the sick in the tents, could be made up. The bits of material supplied by the relief matron for dresses, &c. are too small; by foolish economy the whole material is wasted.

"Dutch medicines" in great quantity were found in the shop; their sale should be prohibited in camp. The Commission are convinced that a great deal of the debility and sickliness among very young infants is due to the lavish employment of these drugs, most of which contain a large proportion of opium.

The Commission hope that the new storekeeper, Mr. Savage, will institute a better system of ration distributing. This takes far too long at present. During the whole time of the Commission's visit to the camp (from 8.30 until dark) there was a group—swelling in size now and then to a crowd—round the ration shelter. Such a crowd is a source of danger in a camp in which infection is rife, and is therefore very undesirable. The Commission have seen several systems of ration distribution which avoid all such crowding and do not entail any waiting (longer than 10 minutes) for rations.

A very serious difficulty, and one the solution of which the Commission feels is of the very first importance, has arisen in this camp since our previous visit, namely, the failure of the fresh meat supply.

During the last two months, weeks have passed with only a rare ration of fresh meat at intervals, and now a sufficiency for the hospital and staff only is obtainable.

"Bully beef" and bread form a quite unsuitable diet for children, who will certainly die in numbers if so fed. We feel, therefore, that it is a grave question whether a population of over 4,000, mainly composed of little children and of women, weakened by a terrible epidemic, can be left in a place where the supply of fresh meat threatens to become totally inadequate.

Since the Commission's first visit to Mafeking there has been a great change for the worse in the health of the camp.

Formerly the camp was dirty, but, to the astonishment of the Commission, healthy.

On August 15th, just before the Commission's first visit, a number of Boer refugees had been brought in.

These had amongst them—

(1.) Measles of a malignant type.
(2.) Enteric.
(3.) Malarial fever.
(4.) Cerebro-spinal meningitis.
(5.) Whooping-cough.
(6.) Chicken pox.

These new-comers were neither examined nor isolated, and the dirty camp proved a suitable soil for the various disease-germs to grow in and flourish

amazingly. The number of deaths steadily rose until, in October, it reached 404 for that month, and there were 100 cases of enteric.

The week ending 2nd November there were 74 deaths, and the enteric cases had gone down, as far as could be ascertained, to between 50 and 60.

While the health of the camp was in this condition, the P.M.O., Dr. Kaufmann, who had not apparently understood the terrible urgency of the camp's state of health, fortunately resigned, and Dr. Morrow was appointed in his place.

Before taking over the hospital and dispensary, Dr. Morrow pointed out that the supply of medical necessaries was very scanty, and insisted on Dr. Kaufmann providing him with some from Mafeking to go on with, as some of the ordinary much used drugs were not in stock at all.

Dr. Morrow then at once proceeded to grapple with the situation, enlarged the hospital, applied for more doctors and nurses, organised a camp cleaning and disinfecting crusade, and also a proper distribution of medical comforts. Twice the disinfectants, of which only a small stock was found to be in hand, ran out, and therefore the entire work of cleaning and disinfecting is not yet finished.

The difference in health between the cleaned and disinfected section and that portion of the camp not yet thoroughly done was very marked.

The manner of disinfecting and cleaning was as follows:—

Two carts were obtained, driven by Kaffir boys, one empty, the other containing chloride of lime (call these carts 1 and 2).

The camp matron and staff, and about six Kaffirs, accompanied the carts. Each tent was visited in rotation, and the contents brought out into the open air. The sides of the tent were rolled up by the occupants, and the contents turned out by them. While this was being done, the camp matron and her staff opened all boxes and examined everything. All rags and rubbish were placed in No. 1 cart for destruction. Every part of the tent floor was treated with carbolic powder, and then all bedding and clothing. After the thorough disinfection of everything was finished, the occupant replaced the contents of the tent in a neat and orderly manner. On the following day a similar cart to No. 2, with camp police (burghers) went down the lines of tents, strewing the surface of the ground with chloride of lime, an empty cart with Kaffirs going before and picking up all rubbish, bones, and other impurities, and throwing them into the cart to be burnt. Everyone was treated alike, except in cases of sickness in the tent, then whatever was necessary for the disinfection of the floor, &c. was done without disturbing the patient.

The Commission are convinced that nothing but such measures, similar to those used in Cape Town during the plague, could be effectual in dealing with the state of sickness in this camp, and the dirty condition into which it had fallen. Nothing but a thorough weekly cleansing and disinfecting will bring to an end the present condition of disease and death.

At the same time there must be a steady building up of the general health. Public boilers to boil all the drinking water for the camp must be erected, and the soup-kitchen started by the Commission made good use of. The Commission are satisfied that fresh soup, meat, and vegetables, sufficient for the hospital soup-kitchen, can be obtained in Mafeking. For the convalescents and the children, some good fresh soup would be better than any bovril or similar "medical comforts." For the children with marasmus, or wasting, in the tents, besides the soup, a strong effort should be made to get cows' or goats' milk, if it were only twice a week. Judging from the Commissioners' experience there is still some milk to be got in Mafeking, and the utmost effort should be made to get it for these children.

Skin cleanliness is much needed, as the sick and weak children are terribly dirty. The Commission feel that, to the cleansing and disinfecting of tents, the camp matron should add a weekly bathing of the children.

There is a failure in the fresh meat supply, and only sufficient is procurable for the hospital and soup-kitchen. The Commission feel that, if sickness and a continued heavy death-rate is to be averted, a ration of vegetables must be procured and dealt out to the camp in rotation. From a personal inspection of the morning market at Mafeking, the Commission find that a

certain amount of vegetables can be obtained. To the children also who are sickly and weak, jam should be dealt out as a medical comfort to make them eat their bread; the little ones in this camp need a great deal of looking after if the cemetery is to be kept from seriously increasing in size.

The hospital is much larger than when the Commission last visited the camp; there are now quite 50 beds, but there should be *at least* 100, and more trained nurses are badly wanted; at present there are only the hospital matron (certificated), two trained nurses (not certificated), and one Boer girl.

The hospital is now being put into good order; there are boilers for enteric sheets and for enteric stools; both these boilers are too near the hospital. There is no boiler for the drinking or dispensary water, which is only filtered; as the hospital well is not deep it is absolutely necessary to boil this water.

The medical staff consists of Dr. Morrow, who takes charge of the hospital and acts as camp health officer (and really is the superintendent in all but name), Dr. Moir, Dr. Hogg, and Dr. Spink, who each take medical charge of a third of the camp.

The system for the issue of medical comforts is now very good.

Medicine is deplorably deficient. Much anæmia among women and children, and no iron. Much diarrhœa, yet no bismuth nor chalk nor catechu with which to cure it. Many deaths and no mortuary. One of the cemeteries only 20 feet from the camp boundary, and graves only $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep.

It will need a sustained strong effect to pull this camp out of the deplorable condition into which it has been allowed to sink.

The Commission are unanimously of opinion that the Superintendent and the former medical officer are greatly to blame for the condition and the death-rate in this camp.

Recommendations.

(1.) The removal of the Superintendent as soon as a good one can be put in his place; in the meantime, Dr. Morrow, who is working loyally and capably with him, should be supported and helped as much as possible.

(2.) A liberal and regular supply of fresh meat, and, failing this, the removal of the camp to a place where this necessary can be obtained. The addition, until this is accomplished, of a ration of vegetables to the existing rations, and of a daily bottle of milk ready mixed with boiled water for each child under 5 years old. The soup-kitchen vigorously kept up, and every effort made to obtain cows' or goats' milk for the hospital, and to feed up and strengthen the population of the camp.

(3.) A qualified capable matron for the hospital and some more trained nurses.

(4.) The drinking water should be analysed at once.

(5.) All drinking water in hospital and camp should be boiled in public boilers.

(6.) All wells covered in and the cement repaired. A sloping piece of corrugated iron should be placed as a protection to the wooden edge of the coping in front of the pump to lead the waste water away into the sluit.

(7.) When the river is fenced, and is therefore clean, the water should be brought up by means of pumps and a hose into camp for washing clothes, so as to relieve the diminishing drinking water supply. Proper washing tables (such for instance as those used at Barberton) are urgently required, and should have been arranged before this.

(8.) The immediate substitution of the "pail system" for the present "trench system" of sanitation, with cinder floors and proper seats in the latrines.

(9.) If the number of persons in each tent is redistributed with tact and discretion, it will probably be found that there are several tents to spare,

which could be made use of for public purposes; one is urgently needed for a camp mortuary. We found a family of 11 persons had appropriated four tents to themselves.

(10.) A proper organisation for the collection and disposal of dry and wet refuse is required, such as is found in all well-ordered camps, and the rule that the occupants of each tent are responsible for the cleanliness of the surrounding ground should be properly enforced.

(11.) A sun-dried brick chamber for fumigating clothes and mattresses should be provided.

(12.) The creation of a camp garden; this should have been begun long ago.

(13.) The cemetery should be enclosed, and graves dug 6 feet deep. It would be better to bury further away than is now the case.

(14.) The rubbish heaps near the camp should be covered well over with earth. Refuse should be carted much further away, as much as possible of it burnt, and the area of the new rubbish heap well-defined with whitened stones, so that it does not present an enormous surface from which dust can be blown into the air. Many of the foregoing recommendations are only necessary if the camp were to still remain at Mafeking, supposing that fresh meat can be supplied regularly. If the camp is not moved right away it will, the Commission presumes, be shifted off the present site, which cannot but be poisoned by the virulent outbreak of sickness (including typhoid) and the long continued dirty condition of the camp.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, VEREENIGING, 22ND OCTOBER 1901.

This camp was started in September 1900. The present Superintendent, Mr. Tucker, has been in charge of it since 14th February, 1901. It occupies ground which slopes gently towards the Vaal River, and is the only good camping ground in the immediate neighbourhood. Capt. Bentinck, Assistant District Commissioner for the Heidelberg district, who takes a great interest in the camp, says that the ground nearer the station becomes quite swampy in rainy weather. The census on the date of our visit was 185 men, 330 women, 452 children; total, 967. The camp has never been more than about 1,030; it is unenclosed.

1. *Water Supply.*—A spring, said by the Assistant District Commissioner to be far and away the best in the neighbourhood, about ½ mile away on the other side of the Vaal River. A miniature dam, two or three feet square, made with corrugated iron, collects the water, which is dipped out with buckets into a large tank cart, holding 400 gallons, drawn by a span of donkeys. The cart fetches the water three times daily, the last load is put into a boiler in camp and is boiled for an early morning supply the next day.

The unsatisfactory feature of the supply is that it is only accessible when the Vaal is fordable. Last week it was not passable, and for two or three months in the year—the rainy season—this is also the case; moreover, other and less pure water (from the Vaal or the Klip Rivers), is easier to get, and the people drink this, fetching it in pails and barrels. In the part of the camp where the Burgher Scouts and their families live (about 150 people) nothing but Vaal River water was being drunk. There is a cart specially for the hospital, which is also supplied by a well, the water of which is pure but scanty, it is therefore kept locked for the use of the hospital and the staff only. The one boiler is not big enough to boil all the water. Two more were indented for in July but have not yet arrived.

2. *Sanitary System.*—Latrines with buckets. One latrine of corrugated iron, well made, with 12 seats and buckets for women, and another similar one for men. In the Burgher Scout camp there were four buckets in a latrine for the women, the men share that in the other camp. The latrines

are well kept, clean and tidy, and are emptied daily by the town sanitary cart. Six night slop carts, also emptied in the same way. The pails are disinfected with chloride of lime, and cleaned by the camp sanitary staff.

This accommodation seems very small for a camp of nearly 1,000 persons, but the chief sanitary inspector, an excellent and energetic man, Mr. Piet van Westenhuïzen declares it is found quite sufficient, and the cleanliness and order of the whole camp and surrounding veldt show that he is right.

Rubbish.—Carried by hand in buckets or tins by each "householder" to one large authorised dust heap, 150 yards from the nearest tent. Some natives with wheelbarrows also clean the camp. The dust heap is carted away to a distance of two miles twice weekly. The authorised dust heap is inclined to spread untidily about.

Dirty Water is thrown into slop buckets at intervals all down the lines. These are carried by hand to a slop hole near the rubbish heap, by natives, every morning. The slop holes are not large, and are covered with earth as they get filled up.

Washing is done in Vaal River at the foot of the slope on which the camp is pitched. There is plenty of water and many convenient stones.

There is a *Bath-house* of iron, with partitions and zinc baths, on a bank 50 feet above the river; but it is not used, as the people will not carry water up; 50 feet of piping has been obtained, but a pump, indented for two months ago, has not yet arrived. Captain Bentinck has just found a broken one which he has "commandeered" and hopes to repair, and then the water can be brought up to the bath-house. Men can bathe in the river.

3. *Housing.*—There are 17 families in houses, these are mainly well-to-do people, and the interiors which we saw were clean and orderly. These people were paying a rent of 2*l.* to 3*l.* a month for their houses. About 15 families have tents of their own, of the kind called "nachtmaal" tents, all the rest of the accommodation consists of bell tents. There is no overcrowding, the average to a tent being less than five. The people are fairly obedient about the lifting of the tent flaps.

4. *Rations* are issued on five days of the week. Monday is the day for flour. Tuesday and Friday afternoons, meat. Wednesday, rice and soap (of which latter the allowance is 5 ozs. a week for each adult, and 3 ozs. for each child). Thursday, sugar, coffee, and salt. Mr. Tucker and Captain Bentinck both said that they thought they had obtained better meat than the majority of camps. They got the first choice of the captured stock, and sometimes the military complained that the burgher camp got better meat than they did, but as Mr. Tucker and his assistant, Mr. Bates, explained, if they did it was because they went to the trouble of getting up at 5 o'clock in the morning to secure it. Sheep had lately averaged 23 lbs. in weight. Eight cows were kept to supply milk to the hospital, but none was yielded at present as the animals had just been inoculated. Some of the people in camp own cattle, 400 head of oxen and 750 sheep. They are allowed to graze these in the neighbourhood. There had been no attempt to abscond. The people were on the whole very contented and happy. There was a soup-kitchen which had been started during the measles epidemic and is carried on still, but the people do not seem to care much for it. Every morning two boilers full of boiled water are prepared for mixing with the milk before it is served out.

5. *Kitchens.*—There are four public ovens for baking bread, and bricks have been made for another four. There is also a private baker in the adjoining township who gives privileges to the camp people, allowing them to bake in his ovens.

6. *Fuel* is practically unlimited. They get wood by rail from Nylstroom, and coal is only from 5*s.* to 10*s.* a ton. Those people in camp, who can afford it, buy their own.

7. *The Slaughter-place* is about 300 yards from the camp. The slaughtering is done by the camp staff, all refugees. Recently only sheep have been killed. The place is extraordinary clean and free from smell; it was in the best

condition we have seen in any camp. The heads and plucks, &c. are given away as extras.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The Superintendent thinks most of the people have bedsteads, and on going through the camp we did not see any tent without one, and several had two. 42 bedsteads, either wood or iron, have been issued; very few had been made in camp. The difficulty was the scarcity of wood. 330 blankets had been given away.

9. *Clothing.*—A private subscription had brought in 45*l.*, which had been spent in clothing, 260*l.* had been sent by the Netherlands Committee, and Mr. Schultz's Committee at Cape Town had just sent a very large consignment—68 cases of groceries and clothing. The relief matron has charge of the clothing part of this gift, which consisted of every variety of clothing of a good substantial quality, rather too warm, it was generally thought, for the present season. Certainly there will be no lack of clothing for a long time to come.

10. *Shop.*—Poynton's. 150*l.* is sometimes taken in one day. It was a well furnished little shop. The inmates in the camp are not allowed to buy in the town shops, and must not spend more than 1*l.* in one day at Poynton's without a "permit."

11. *Hospital.*—The accommodation consists of four marquees containing six beds each, one is reserved for maternity cases, but has never been used. Another marquee, now used by the nurses, and a large store tent could be added to the hospital accommodation if required. There were 12 patients in the hospital on the date of our visit, five of whom were suffering from enteric. One was a chronic case, an imbecile man who had been suffering for 36 years from an ulcerated leg.

There is a dispensary marquee, with a small supply of drugs, more have been indented for. The dispensary is provided with a filter, and contains a good supply of surgical dressings and medical comforts. The staff consists of one medical officer, Dr. Marshall, a dispenser, a matron, Nurse Moore, with two local assistants, and a black boy as hospital orderly. The patients looked comfortable and well-cared for. The matron would be glad of some mosquito netting to put over them to keep away the flies.

All drinking water used in the hospital is boiled and filtered, and the water for the dispensary is filtered. The hospital kitchen badly requires whitewashing.

The enteric cases are not kept in a separate marquee, and the appliances for disinfecting enteric linen, &c. are not satisfactory. The supply of disinfectants has run out, and there is only sufficient for the disinfecting of utensils. Enteric linen has to be washed out without being previously disinfected and boiled. A boiler for this linen was indented for in July but has not arrived. The accommodation for the nurses and the arrangements for their comfort generally have been well looked after. The mortuary, which is within the hospital enclosure, is all that can be desired.

Several curious cases of home treatment were noted in this camp. A patient suffering from enteric was thought to be possessed by the devil, which was exorcised by the Dutch parson. A recently flayed dog's skin was wrapped round a measles patient. There were cases of measles in which the little patients had been partially painted with green oil paint.

12. *The Camp Matron* is Nurse Hannah, formerly a nurse at the hospital; she lives and messes with the hospital matron, with whom she is on very friendly terms. She has five probationers under her, not young girls, but married women with families. They are paid 1*s.* a day, but have no badge or uniform. They go round their lines every morning before 9 a.m. and report to the camp matron at her office. They also report cases of want of cleanliness and other matters requiring attention. From 9 to 10 the camp matron sees her probationers and attends to any slight ailments at her office in the centre of the camp. At 10 she goes round to the cases reported to her by the probationers. She then reports these cases to the doctor, and accompanies him in his rounds. On the day of our visit 16 cases had been visited

by Nurse Hannah, and of these she reported four to the doctor. All cases o enteric go to hospital. She instructs her probationers to sponge, poultice, &c where necessary. She is very proud of her camp and she is evidently doing very good work. The people trust her and are much attached to her. She can give orders for medical comforts, which are obtained from the camp issuing store. Stimulants are issued by the dispenser on receiving an order from Nurse Hannah. Nurse Hannah is in every respect a most useful and trustworthy member of the staff, but the Commission are convinced that it is best that orders for stimulants should be given only by the doctor, and never in larger quantities than 2 ozs. a day per patient in the lines. Cases requiring more should come into hospital.

Besides the camp matron there is an old lady, Mrs. Stilnell, called the "relief matron," who has charge of the clothing department. She does no work in any systematic way, but goes about on friendly visits as she feel disposed.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. Burgers. He seems very popular in the camp, and joins in the games; plays hockey with the boys, and shares in the social life of the people.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Mr. Tucker has only twice had occasion to resort to any disciplinary measures, and then he cut off rations. We were told of a case, however, of a man who was visiting his son, ill with enteric in the hospital. He conveyed to him soup containing large pieces of solid meat. The boy had a very serious relapse. The Assistant District Commissioner held a court in open camp and sentenced the man to 48 hours' solitary confinement. During this 48 hours, however, he was allowed up four times under escort to visit his son. Of course the man was very angry, but it has had a good effect in making people realise that rules must be kept. Mr. Tucker said he had not had much difficulty about morals; soldiers had been found in camp three times, and there were a few women (about six) who were more than suspects, he would take the earliest opportunity of sending them away to Natal as "undesirables." The authorities would be warned of their characters.

15. *Education.*—There is a good school under Mr. Evens, who was for many years a teacher under the old O.F.S. administration. He has four assistants from the camp. Two of these had started the school before Mr. Evens came. The principal schoolroom is in an iron building brought from the adjacent mines. The number of children on the books is 238, and the average attendance 180. A good deal of the school furniture, harmonium, lamps, &c. had been borrowed from people in the camp. The children were remarkably clean and neat. The Superintendent and several of the officials spoke to us of the markedly good effect produced by the school, which was started in May, on the cleanliness and order of the camp generally. A man was heard to say that he must wash himself, now that his children had to wash in order to attend school. This schoolroom is used in the evening for adult classes and for meetings of a more or less social kind. Captain Bentinck sends up all the illustrated papers he can get, and frequently goes up in the evenings himself and talks to the people about them or some subject such as a map of the world hanging on the schoolroom wall. They also have music in the evenings. The night before our visit there were 17 at this gathering, sometimes there are 29 or 30.

16. *Occupations.*—Carpentering. The school desks were made in camp. There is a blacksmith's forge, and also some brickmaking. No gardening at present. We suggested the usefulness of a camp garden rather than a number of small allotments. Mattresses are made in camp and bedsteads when wood can be procured.

17. *Orphans* are cared for by their relations.

18. *Local Committees.*—None in the ordinary sense. The clergyman has a committee which investigates cases of destitution; they report to the Superintendent.

Month.	Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 12.	12 to 20.	Over 20.	Total.
March	1	2	—	—	—	3
April	—	—	1	—	2	3
May	1	1	3	1	2	8
June	2	—	—	—	4	6
July	—	1	1	—	2	4
August	7	16	14	5	8	50
September	9	17	11	1	2	40
October	2	2	—	—	2	6
TOTAL	22	39	30	7	22	120

20. *Women applying to Leave.*—Only two or three have done so. When they do apply the Superintendent writes to the police of the town to which they wish to go and acts on their advice.

21. No return.

22. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, but they are not rationed, and they must sleep in the native location.

23. *Shrouds and Coffins* have been invariably provided.

GENERAL REMARKS.

This is one of the pleasantest and most cheerful of the camps we have visited. The whole camp is beautifully clean and orderly, and it is, so far as our knowledge goes, the only camp which has returned to a nominal death-rate after the epidemic of measles. Captain Bentinck devotes the greater part of his time to promoting the welfare of the people. The Superintendent and his assistant, Mr. Bates, the chief sanitary inspector, Mr. Piet van der Westerhuizer, and the other officials, are not only on excellent terms with each other, but work together most cordially for the good of the camp. There was evidently a corresponding spirit of good will and good feeling among the people. We heard little or no grumbling, though many expressed their regret at the war going on so long. One nice, refined-looking woman, wiping her nose on h r black stuff apron, said that her husband had been one of the first to lay down arms; they longed for peace, and hoped it would have come long ago. There is a separate camp here for the Boers who have become scouts in the British service, and there is a feeling of hostility between the two camps, which can easily be understood; but with this exception there was a marked absence of bitterness and discontent.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. Bring the spring water, on the other side of the Vaal, into the camp by pipes as quickly as possible.

2. Obtain and put in use the boilers, including the boiler for enteric sheets, indented for last July, as soon as possible, meantime every effort should be made to prevent the people drinking the Vaal water. Enteric has already appeared in the camp, and the place is said to be unhealthy in this respect at this time of year.

3. A sod or brick hut should be built for disinfecting clothes, bedding, &c.

4. The doctor should sign for all stimulants required.

5. The following hospital and medical apparatus are needed:—Disinfectants, mosquito netting, drugs, already indented for, urine-testing apparatus, waterproof sheets.

REPORT ON CONCENTRATION CAMP, HEIDELBERG, 21ST AND 22ND NOVEMBER 1901.

Heidelberg camp is beautifully situated on the slope of some kopjes which rise behind the town. It is about one mile, as the crow flies, from the river. This camp is one of the earliest which was made, and we found several families who had been resident in it for more than a year. The Superintendent, Mr. A. A. Allison, has had charge of the camp since February 1901. The population on November 21st numbered—men, 494; women, 761; children, 951; total, 2,206. The camp is unfenced. It was formerly divided into three parts, called "camps 1," "2," and "3." But as the medical officer suspected the water supply of No. 1 camp, the tents formerly in "No. 1" are gradually being distributed between Nos. 2 and 3. This began three weeks ago, and the process is now nearly completed.

1. *Water Supply.*—"No. 1" camp water supply is from an open spring close to an open furrow. Furrow water and rain water can drain into this spring, and the wind can blow foul dust into it. This water supply, the dirty condition of the tents in "No. 1" camp, and the small space between the tents sufficiently account for the fact that the enteric cases originated in this No. 1 camp.

The water for "No. 2" camp is brought in by a pipe from a spring a little distance up the kloof. This had been completed only the day before the visit of the Commission. The water was clear and bright, but to keep it pure the spring ought to be covered in and surrounded by a barbed wire fence. Nothing short of this will prevent the pigs kept in the neighbourhood from disporting themselves in and near it when so disposed.

The water for "No. 3" camp comes from a fountain, which is covered in; but this spring is too low down, and its purity is endangered by soakage from the camp.

Washing Clothes.—There are several washing tables with running water close to them, but they are very little used. The women were, in general, washing in stagnant pools from which sods had been removed. It would be easy to make a dam here; but the Commission is doubtful if, with enteric in the camp, a washing dam would be a good thing. A small dam might be made for the women to draw washing water from. If this were done, it should be often drained, and no stagnant pools of water should be allowed. A policeman should be employed to look after the washing-places.

Bathing.—There is rough bathing accommodation for men and boys, but no provision for women and girls.

2. *Sanitation.*—The "pail system" is adopted. The pails are emptied by the town contractor. There is a paid sanitary officer in each camp, whose business it is to see that the latrines are kept clean and disinfected. The actual work is well done by small black boys. There are 80 latrine pails. The number allotted to men is sufficient; but there are too few for women, and no suitable provision for children.

The veldt was clean round the camp, but the kopjes had been fouled in some places. The lower end and side of No. 2 camp, where the wagons are kept, was far from clean. No. 1 camp is dirty in every way. No. 3 camp is beautifully pitched, and is kept in good order.

Disposal of Dry Rubbish.—This is not well done. Buckets are placed between the tents, and there are 20 wheelbarrows, and everyone has to wheel or carry his own rubbish to the dumping ground. This is a big trench at the foot of No. 1 camp. Sufficient earth is not thrown on this every day. This trench is much too near the camp, and is above the place where the water comes in. In No. 3 camp the rubbish is just dumped on the ground at a short distance from the camp. The Superintendent said that for want of transport he could take the rubbish no further.

Slop Water.—There are receptacles for this throughout the camp, and sanitary officers in camps 1, 2 and 3 to see that they are properly emptied.

3. *Housing.*—No 3 camp consists entirely of marquees, of which there are 146. There are also a few square Indian tents; and the rest of the camp (not counting the hospital) consists of bell tents, with the exception of three rows of sod huts built back to back, 82 in all, in the middle of No. 2 camp. Most of the sod huts are 12 feet by 12 feet. They are very low—not more than 7 feet high—and are roofed with corrugated iron. The great majority of them are not well ventilated, the building of the huts back to back preventing a through draft. All their inmates, however, greatly prefer them to the bell tents. Some were very neat and nicely kept; others were dirty; but none were so squalid as, for instance, the houses occupied by the camp people in Belfast. One woman had plastered the inside of her hut with her own hands; another complained of the sods being damp. Each marquee was generally occupied by three families. They were very clean and well kept, and their inhabitants were quite the aristocracy of the camp. This part of the camp presented a very orderly, smart appearance; the space between the marquees was very wide, and the pitching beautifully done. We did not find any overcrowding. The Superintendent said there was great trouble about the lifting of tent flaps. This may be due to the climate. The morning of our arrival was as cold as an English March.

4. *Rations.*—Groceries are issued every Thursday and meat twice a week. The supply of fresh meat has been short of late, and the Superintendent has been obliged to issue fresh and corned beef alternately. No vegetables are issued. Coolies hawk vegetables about the camp, but ask rather high prices for them—three small turnips for 3*d.*, for example, and a small pumpkin for 6*d.* Lime juice is issued as a medical comfort, but not as a regular ration. Three ozs. of soap are issued per head per week. Coffee is issued in the raw bean, and 2 ozs. extra per week are allowed on this account. The Superintendent formerly issued one tin of condensed milk every other day to every child under two years of age, in addition to the ration of meat. In consequence of an order from Pretoria, upon which he began to act last Monday (November 18th), he now issues a bottle of milk every day to every child under three, *in lieu of its ration of meat.* The bottle of milk is made with boiled water mixed with condensed milk in the proportion of one tin to three bottles. The total result of the change is, therefore, that the issue of milk for the children is rather reduced, and the family loses the benefit of the children's meat ration. We think this was not what was intended, and that an addition to rations as a whole was contemplated, and not the reverse.

5. *Kitchens.*—There are three public bake ovens (not yet in use), and the materials for four more are at the station. They will bake about 60 loaves at one time, and will be enough for the whole camp. Boilers for boiling all drinking water have been promised, but have not yet arrived.

6. *Fuel.*—Two lbs. coal per head per day are issued, and some wood for kindling. The wood comes from Nylstroom.

7. *The Slaughter-place* is in No. 1 camp, but is said not to be used. The sheep are killed on the veldt at some considerable distance.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—150 kartels have been made in this camp, but many more are needed. The Superintendent said that he had been promised from Pretoria a supply of the necessary material, *i.e.*, a truck-load of small poles; these had not yet been received. He had issued a large number of blankets, but no waterproof sheets, except to the hospital.

9. *Clothing.*—A large quantity had been issued, both by the Government and by private societies.

The distribution of clothing and the investigation of cases of indigence are now in the hands of Mrs. MacBourth, the camp matron.

10. *Shops.*—Poynton's, under the usual regulations. The shop was well stocked with the usual things; tinned salmon, sardines, butter, lard, golden syrup, preserved ginger, &c. The salesman said his takings were about 500*l.* a month. He could have sold articles of luxury, such as concertinas, but these and similar things are not now allowed by the Director of Civil Supplies.

11. *Hospital.*—The staff consists of two medical officers, Dr. Ralston and Dr. Gibbons, a matron, Miss Bayley, and another trained nurse, 14 local assistants, a dispenser, two line orderlies, and one hospital orderly, and servants. The accommodation consists of eight marquees, now containing 44 beds and 38 patients. Twelve of the hospital beds have been lent to people in camp. A good hospital kitchen was in course of erection with store room attached. It is intended to surround the hospital grounds with a wire fence. The new kitchen will form one corner of the boundary, and the people coming for soup and milk will be served from out of one of the windows without entering the hospital enclosure at all; medical comforts in the nature of food will be issued from the other window in the store room. The present hospital kitchen was in good order, but is much too small.

The reporting of cases of illness in the tents is not, in this camp, in the hands of the camp matron and her assistants, but is done by two corporals. Dr. Ralston prefers this to the camp matron system, and he believes he gets every serious illness reported, because the people dread post-mortems, and he orders a post-mortem in all cases where death has occurred without a doctor having been called in. In this we believe him to have been mistaken, as the Superintendent informed us there were more deaths in tents than in hospital.

Medical comforts (not in the nature of food) are in the charge of the dispenser, who issues them on doctor's order. The supply is most ample, but there is no waste, and the distribution of stimulants is carefully done. All water used in the dispensary and for patients' drinking is both boiled and filtered. From 35 to 40 bottles of fresh milk are obtained daily for the hospital; if there is any over it is given to the sick in the lines. There were 11 cases of enteric fever in the hospital on the date of our visit, all of which originated in No. 1 camp, now being dispersed. The other principal diseases were pneumonia and whooping-cough. The measles epidemic was over, and the camp was in a fairly healthy condition. There is a destructor for enteric stools, and a new boiler for linen had just come; a large kaffir pot was being used until this was available. The linen is disinfected in 1 to 40 carbolic before being boiled. The hospital washing is done separately from the rest in a wash-house, which is provided with a good washing machine.

The matron, Sister Bailey, is a capable nurse and a good organiser. She has been in her present position since February. At present she has no trained night nurse; she leaves the best of her local assistants in charge at night and is called up herself in the event of emergency. A trained nurse for night work is coming. The matron spoke of having encountered the usual difficulties in training her local assistants, but said they had worked splendidly in the night of a very bad storm about three weeks ago. Three marquees went down, and the girls exerted themselves to the utmost to save and protect the patients from injury.

Dr. Ralston, P.M.O., undertakes the out-patient department and the hospital, and Dr. Gibbons all the visiting in the lines. Generally speaking, we believe it works best for each doctor to have part of the hospital and part of the camp visiting. The doctor in charge of patients in tents is then able to follow them up if they enter the hospital.

Several examples of the extraordinary "remedies" adopted by Boer women for their children were found in this camp. Cow dung mixed with sulphur had been largely administered. This had produced diarrhœa, which had weakened the children and rendered them less able to withstand the measles epidemic. A baby seen by a member of the Commission had had coal tar poured down its ears that day. It is a frequent practice to tie cotton round babies' wrists to prevent convulsions; would that all Boer "remedies" were equally harmless.

12. *Camp Matrons.*—There are a camp matron, Mrs. MacBourth, and two camp nurses, Mrs. White and Miss Kaighie, at Heidelberg. Their position is in some respects anomalous. Dr. Ralston, who is about to leave the camp, has opposed their work and thrown difficulties in their way. Another impediment to efficient organisation arises from the fact that Mrs. MacBourth, who is officially superior to the other two, is entirely untrained, and, although amiable and well meaning, is unable to organise the work of the other two, who are capable, active women, with a fair knowledge of nursing. Now that

Camp 1 has been disbanded, Mrs. White and Miss Kaigne would be capable, under a fully-trained matron, of acting as camp nurses for Camps 2 and 3. It would probably much facilitate the proper organisation of the camp matron's work if Mrs. MacBourth were allowed to go to Johannesburg, which we believe she desires to do.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—There is no minister resident in camp. The church elders hold services, and a Church of England clergyman in Heidelberg has offered to baptise children if parents wish it. The Dutch Reformed minister of Heidelberg has been sent away as an "undesirable."

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Mr. Allison has had very little difficulty. He has never had a wired-in enclosure. Two women were sent away for immoral conduct. Mr. Allison said: "The General would not have them "in the town and sent them to me." He eventually got rid of them by sending them to Natal. Once or twice there was some difficulty arising from soldiers "knocking about" the camp; but Mr. Allison has put a stop to this, and his camp is strictly out of bounds for military camps, and *vice versâ*.

15. *Education.*—The schools do not call for special remark. The headmaster, Mr. Lugier, has eight assistants out of the town. One of the schools is held in the Dopper church close to the camp, and the other in two large canvas shelters between Camps 2 and 3. 500 children are on the roll, and the average daily attendance is about 330. Mr. Lugier complained of the ignorance of his assistants. One who was giving a geography lesson did not know where Australia was, and on being asked the capital of Iceland, said "Danish," that word being written across Iceland on the map.

16. *Occupations.*—Gardening had not been a success. A piece of land had been ploughed and manured, and seeds had been offered gratis, but the men would not give the labour. The camp matron said she meant to have a garden for the hospital. We advised Mr. Allison to have a camp garden, employing paid labour and keeping the produce, first for the hospital, and then for sick people in the lines. There was some shoemaking in camp. Tools and leather were supplied, but the last consignment was all sole leather and no leather for "uppers," so the work was brought to a standstill. There were also carpenters and stonemasons in camp.

17. *Orphans.*—No special provision required.

18. *Local Committees.*—Two gentlemen in Heidelberg town acted as the representatives of the Netherlands Bystanders Committee, and have given away a quantity of clothing, &c. in camp.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died.*—

Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 12.	12 to 20.	Over 20.
72	95	41	17	45

Total, 270. (This includes 4 natives.)

20. *Women applying to Leave.*—Only a very few had done so. The applications were granted unless some objection was raised by the commandant of the place to which they wished to go.

21. *Servants* are allowed, but are not rationed. There are not many. 13 men, 16 women, and 20 children form the whole native population of the camp.

22. *Coffins* had always been provided free, and also shrouds if the families were too poor to pay for them. The mortuary is a stone building with an iron roof, provided with iron stretchers. It was in every way suitable and well kept.

Recommendations.

(1.) Fence the camp on both sides, and keep the animals out. Allow no kraals close to tents, and bring all waggons together in one place.

(2.) Complete the dispersal of Camp 1 immediately.

(3.) Roof in the main spring; cover the pipe with earth; shoot the pigs.

(4.) Move the washing tables to the edge of the stream as it leaves the camp, and provide water by pipe from present supply. Fill up with clean earth or stones the holes from which sods have been removed, at present used as washing-places.

(5.) Put up bath tents for women and children, and provide latrine accommodation for children.

(6.) Provide boilers sufficient to boil all drinking water.

(7.) Continue the milk ration, mixed with boiled water, to the children, but let it be in addition to their former ration and not in lieu of meat.

(8.) A 300-gallon cistern for water is required for the hospital.

(9.) A slop tank on wheels and two Scotch carts are required for sanitary purposes.

(10.) Provide a fair proportion of well-trained English teachers for the school.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, STANDERTON, 23RD, 24TH, AND 25TH NOVEMBER 1901.

This camp is pitched on the bank of the Vaal River, it has quite recently been moved from a spot a little lower down the river on the same bank. The new camp is well laid out, the space from pole to pole of the bell tents being 54 feet. The slope of the ground is good, but the soil is bad, being moist, black earth, which retains the rain-water. The Superintendent is Mr. Wingfield, and the number in camp at the date of our visit, November 23rd, was 620 men, 1,162 women, 1,251 children—total, 3,033.

A donga runs through the camp, draining the surface water from a large rubbish heap which lies a little way off. The water stagnates in pools in this donga, and on both sides of it are old latrine trenches. There had been rain before the Commission visited the camp, and pools of water stood in the little trenches round some of the tents; water also stood in some of the latrine trenches which had been imperfectly filled in.

Water Supply.—The river supplies all the water for the camp, but a tiny spring of apparently pure water close to an adjacent farm is used by some of the occupants for drinking purposes. The spring is weak, and no attempt has been made to clean or enclose it, or to remove the many carcasses which lie scattered all over the neighbouring ground.

The Vaal River is notoriously foul, and although the camp has been situated on its bank since last November, and the present Superintendent has been in charge since June, no better means for securing water have been devised than the primitive one of climbing down the steep bank and dipping buckets into the stream. There are two water carts in which water is fetched from the town supply for the hospital and boilers. This water is pumped from the river 1,000 yards further up the stream.

There are three boilers in the camp, two of these had not been heated on the day of the Commission's visit. One is used for the water in which milk is to be mixed.

The drinking-water boilers seemed badly managed; near each is a cooling tank, and the water is led from the boiler to the cooler by means of a bit of old bent tin which acts as an open gutter, and which is tied to the outlet pipe of the boiler by a dirty piece of rag.

The water is apparently only intended for use when cold, for there was no proper provision for drawing it off boiling into the applicant's own receptacle, although we were informed it was possible to do this by untying the piece of rag, a clumsy and uncleanly contrivance; moreover, the outlet pipe to each boiler is bent up half a foot above the bottom of it, which results in the waste of the last six inches of boiled water, and makes the cleaning of the boiler difficult, an important defect where water is so thick and muddy.

There seemed very little demand for the water from these tanks, which are only heated in turn on alternate days. It is evident that the very large majority of the occupauts are drinking the unboiled river water, which is very foul, and is without doubt partly the cause of the prevalence of enteric in the camp.

We were informed that more boilers are coming. In view of the nature of the water supply here, these should have been procured months ago, but even those which are in the camp are not being made the best use of. The Commission consider that it is inexcusable that steps have not been taken to improve the water supply or to render the boiling arrangements thoroughly effective.

There is a large scheme for bringing river water into the camp by means of pumps and pipes a thousand yards up the stream, but the work had not been begun and the materials for it had not arrived.

Bath-rooms.—None. There is a scheme to erect some.

Washing-place.—The river bank just below the camp ; but the Commission saw washing being done in the donga, in camp, at a spot a yard or two below the decaying carcass of an ox which lay in the water. A little girl of six was also fetching water from here for a neighbouring tent. She said she was the eldest of the family, and pointed out that it was nearly half a mile across the camp to the river, and that she could not go so far or climb up the steep bank with water often during the day. The Commission spoke to her mother on the subject.

A specimen of the washing water was taken.

Sanitation.—Two latrine trenches in the midst of the new camp, with 12 seats each, surrounded with corrugated iron screens, are supposed to afford accommodation for 1,161 women, and 1,261 children. There is one corrugated iron latrine with two seats, in an extremely dirty condition, for men, in addition there are two open trenches, without seats, surrounded with ragged canvas screens affording no proper privacy, one for men and one for boys. These are all in the camp, and are surrounded with numbers of old trenches and foul rubbish heaps, many of the trenches having evidently been filled up with rubbish. The effluvia from these places was horrible, and the ground of that part of the camp is evidently saturated.

There is a scheme for erecting new latrines on the pail system, one of these, which is partly finished, is already in use without pails.

The Commission feel that, considering the length of time this camp has been in existence, there is no excuse for the disgraceful sanitary arrangements, to which a great part of the illness in camp must be attributed.

There appeared to be no proper and efficient sanitary corps. Nineteen natives are employed, but the refugees have not been induced to work for the benefit of the camp, and with hundreds of adult men there was not a sufficiency of available labour. We think this reflects on the capacity of the Superintendent.

4. *Rubbish Disposal.*—There are no receptacles for rubbish, and no authorised dustbins. In the adjoining camping ground from which the people have just been moved, the rubbish was dumped in heaps all along the river bank and practically in the camp. These heaps still remain, they have not been buried or covered with chloride of lime. The new camp has not yet had time to become dirty, but, as no provision has yet been made, we feel it must shortly become as bad as the old one.

There is no provision for the disposal of wet slops or wastewater.

There is a scheme for making "authorised dustbins," &c.; but in the meantime rubbish is beginning to appear in the big donga, in the little depression on the river side of the camp, and in the smaller dongas which run through the camp. There are moreover the extremely foul rubbish heaps near the latrines.

The Commission noticed a large number of buckets in the Superintendent's store-house which might have been utilised as dust or slop-water receptacles; they cannot but feel that there is no excuse for the lack of organisation and provision in this respect. There is a Scotch cart, and on the day when the

Commission were in camp this was carting away some of the heaps which had been allowed to accumulate near the latrines.

There has lately been a very great difficulty in the matter of the transport; the military having withdrawn the greater number of the animals used by the camp.

The Commission feel this is a very serious condition of affairs, as it is impossible to keep a camp clean and healthy without transport; but at the same time they cannot consider that this difficulty is any excuse for the grave neglect in regard to sanitary arrangements in this camp. The condition and situation of trench latrines does not depend on transport. The failure to dig rubbish pits in suitable sites, which can be done in camps where transport is a difficulty, the neglect to clean and level the dongas so as to prevent the water collecting in dirty pools, and to render the sanitary and police corps really efficient, cannot be attributed to lack of transport either.

The kraal for transport animals is outside the camp, it was extremely dirty. Rinderpest had broken out among the oxen, and six dead bodies lay for two days in the kraal among the living animals. The Commission consider that the supply of transport animals is a matter of urgent importance, but they feel that if no greater care is exercised in the supervision of them the addition of more animals is simply wasteful, for they will certainly die in this infected kraal.

3. *Housing.*—There are 24 sod houses and a few marquees; with these exceptions the whole of the camp is living in bell tents. The rule about the number in a tent is not to put more than five in a bell tent or 20 in a marquee. More tents are required. 99 new comers were sent down to the camp a few days previous to our visit without any notice having been given. The burgher police are responsible for the lifting of tent flaps; the rule is that they should be up from 10 to 12 noon daily; but there has been so much sickness in camp that it has been found practically impossible to enforce this rule. The tent flaps were not at all generally up in the days of our visit.

4. *Rations.*—Grocery rations, with the exception of rice, are issued on Mondays to the whole camp, meat on Tuesdays and Saturdays; wood and coal on Wednesdays and rice on Saturdays. The bag system, the same as at Barberton, is pursued for the issue of grocery rations. The issue is done with extreme rapidity; we counted the time occupied and found that 14 people could be served in three minutes. The head storekeeper, Mr. Matchell, does his work in a very first-rate manner, and has the large ration store in excellent order. He only employs three issuers and two small boys who receive and fold the empty bags. The issuers fill in any spare time they may have during the rest of the week in getting the grocery rations weighed out and placed in bags. These bags when filled are all put into large pigeon holes; all the rations of the same weight in the same pigeon hole. This is the quickest system of issuing we have seen. If it were combined with the block system, it would be absolute perfection for rapidity, correctness, and reducing to a minimum the time the people are kept waiting for their rations. There may be some risk of infection through interchange of the bags, but this would be avoided if they were boiled by some responsible person. Fresh meat has been scarce of late in the Standerton district. Rinderpest is very prevalent and sheep are very poor and diseased, many weighed only 12 lbs. Alternate issues of tinned and fresh meat have been made now for several weeks. The storekeeper expressed the opinion that there would be a poor chance of any fresh meat after this month. Some of the refugees have cattle of their own; the grazing area allowed is pointed out each week by the military authorities. One bottle of condensed milk is issued daily (mixed with boiled water) to each child under three. General Clements allows 36 bottles of fresh milk gratis every day for the hospital. We did not hear any complaints in camp about rations except about the tinned meat.

5. There are no public ovens for baking bread, but the Superintendent said he was intending to put up four.

6. *The Fuel Ration* is 20 lbs. coal per head per week and 10 lbs. wood. The wood is from Nylstroom; the coal from Springs.

7. *Slaughter-place.*—300 yards from the boundary of the camp. The slaughter-poles have only recently been erected and have not yet been much used. Until two months ago the slaughter-place was inside the camp.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—The Superintendent wants more wood for the making of kartels. He estimated that probably one-third of the people were sleeping on the ground, although there are but few tents which do not contain some kind of bedstead. The Commission think that a larger number than one in three are sleeping on the ground. Thousands of blankets have been issued.

9. *Clothing* has been sent into camp from four sources: the Government supply from Pretoria, the Netherlands Bystands fund, Mr. Schultz's committee, Cape Town, and private donations sent to the clergyman. There is a rule that all clothing and other gifts must be distributed through the Superintendent or his agents in camp. If a private gift is received, the donor may attend and see it distributed if he desires to do so.

10. *Shops.*—Poynton's, a well-stocked shop. The takings are about 700*l.* a month. The articles most in demand are tinned herrings, sardines, sweets, Quaker oats, Californian peaches, ham, bacon, &c. We also noted looking-glasses and reticules.

Poynton has another shop in camp for the sale of cool drinks and refreshments. There is also a butcher's shop about 200 yards from the camp, at which both meat and milk are sold. There was not a large supply when we saw it.

11. *Hospital.*—The hospital consists of

7 marquees for enteric.
1 marquee for general diseases.
1 bell tent, Europeans enteric.
2 bell tents, Natives enteric.
1 bell tent, European enteric and diphtheria.
1 bell tent for infectious cases.

There are seven beds, as an average, to each marquee, and one to three in the bell tents,

There are 64 beds in this hospital, of which 56 are for enteric patients. There was at the time of the Commission's visit only one spare bed, and that in the general tent, and one spare bell tent for infectious cases.

This hospital has recently been changed from the old low site to the breezy hill top, where the Commission found it. As it had only occupied its new site for a week, there has been no time to harden the floors of the tents or to do many other highly necessary things, but the main object of removal has been attained; the enteric patients were for the most part doing well, and the pity is that the hospital has not been twice as large, so as to clear the enteric patients out of the lines.

The patients were all comfortably clad in proper night dresses made from material given by a Dutch clergyman in Standerton.

The Boer assistants are too fond of keeping the marquees closed when there is a puff of wind, and there are a number of small skin mats strewn over the floor that should be taken away and the floors well hardened.

There are two tents for native servants, of whom there were several down with enteric. For these there was a native woman as nurse, who was very attentive to her patients.

Enteric sheets are disinfected with Izal or Jeyes, not boiled, and the stools are incinerated when the boy and the incinerator are working. The latter is a large iron pot built in with brick, and quite suitable.

The night nurse and Dr. Lilienveldt have bell tents. The matron at present lives in a small unlined iron room, which is really a store. The Boer probationers have a marquee as mess tent, but sleep in camp. This is not a good arrangement, especially for those nursing diphtheria. There is a small dispensary and a dispenser who lives on the premises within the hospital fence.

The kitchen much needs some more shelving and another table, however rough. There is not even a rough pantry. Two little bell tents hold the

stores. The water is brought by water-cart, and well boiled before being given to the patients.

More help is needed in the kitchen, and there should be at least two extra boys. The matron, Mrs. Barrett, works hard, but needs more trained help. She takes a keen interest in her work, speaks Dutch, and does her utmost, so the Commission was assured, to thoroughly look after the patients and hospital generally.

In the lines Dr. Lilienveldt and Mr. Howard visit every day, taking the out-patients before going to the lines on alternate weeks.

The out-patients are seen at the camp dispensary, and average about 30 per day. The mass of the sick are in the lines, and most of the cases are enteric. There have been as many as five in one family, and the Commission fears unless the sick can be removed to hospital the new site will soon be as infected as the old. It is useless to say that the sick recover in the tents. They may, but they infect not only the others in the tent, but the very earth itself before they recover.

Disinfectants are given, but they are used in a perfunctory way, and the stools, after some slight disinfection, go into the common latrine trenches.

As far as the Commission could find out, there were fully as many enteric cases in the tents as in the hospital, and every one of them a source of infection and danger to the camp.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Miss Merry, a fully trained nurse, has arrived during the last few days, and she appears likely to organise the work of camp nursing in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. She has one trained nurse who is to act as assistant camp matron, and she is applying for another trained nurse. She will divide the camp into three sections, and she and the other two trained nurses will each take charge of a section. Each will have six local assistants under her, and all the cases of sickness in tents, of which at present men are a large number, will be reported to the doctors, and, if they remain in their tents, will be nursed by the camp matron or her assistants. The camp matron also has charge of the issue of milk and soup. The milk is mixed with boiled water every morning between seven and eight, and again at midday; every child under three receives about 1½ pints or a quart. Milk is also issued to other people in camp on doctor's orders. The actual mixing is done by the dispenser; the proportion is two tins of Ideal and one of sweetened milk to about 1½ gallons of water. If there is any over it is given away immediately. About 24 gallons of soup is made daily. 40 lbs. of fresh meat are allowed, besides vegetables, pearl barley, sago, &c. The soup boils all night, and is distributed every morning at 10 o'clock. The soup is treated as a medical comfort, and given out only on doctor's orders. A destructor, as in the hospital, is needed for camp use, and also a Kaffir pot for boiling the linen. The hospital apparatus of this description is too far off to be available for camp use. In this camp there is a special woman in charge of the medical comforts, and she gives them out on doctor's orders only. There is a most liberal supply, comprising brandy, port wine, arrow-root, sago, Quaker oats, corn flour, biscuits, Brand's essence, compressed vegetables, tea, cocoa, jelly powders, &c. A list of the actual consumption of medical comforts during the month of October was handed to us at our request by the storekeeper.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. — Thennissen from Standerton town comes in every Sunday for services. There are Bible readers and elders resident in camp.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—The Superintendent has no special means of discipline. If people are refractory and refuse to observe rules, he sends for them and warns them. If necessary he would send ungovernable people to be dealt with by the resident magistrate, but he has only been obliged to resort to this in one case. He had a good deal of trouble at one time about morals; he isolated some of the worst people and not long ago sent them to Natal (Merebank). The camp is now enclosed with a wire fence and no one is allowed in or out between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. There is a bridge between the camp and the town. This bridge is very strictly guarded, and no civilian is allowed to cross without a pass. People who can be trusted are allowed weekly or monthly passes.

15. *Education.*—The school marquees are particularly badly pitched, but on inquiring the reason we heard that the children had put them up themselves. We suggested that General Clements, who had always been very kind to the camp people, might be asked to lend a fatigue party to come in and pitch the marquees properly. The headmaster, Mr. Hugo, also has charge of the school for refugees in town; we did not see him. His chief assistant has a very bright, interesting method of teaching, and the children in his class looked thoroughly alert. The other teachers were not so good. The numbers in this school are at present small, owing in part to the sickness in camp, no child being allowed to attend school from a tent in which there is infectious illness. There are 219 children on the roll and the average daily attendance is 152.

16. *Occupations.*—There is a quarry worked by camp people, brickmaking, shoemaking, and carpentering are also carried on. There is no garden, but this is one of many things which are "going to be."

17. *Orphans.*—No special arrangements necessary. They are taken by their relations.

18. *Local Committees.*—There is no local committee outside the camp, but one has been formed by the Superintendent in the camp. It consists of three men from the O.R.C. and three from the Transvaal. They meet every Saturday at 4 and advise Mr. Wingfield on points connected with sanitation, indigence, morals, complaints against camp officials, &c.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died* from February 1st to November 23rd, 1901.

Month.	Under 1.	1–5.	5–12.	12–20.	Over 20.	Total.
February	3	1	1	—	3	8
March	2	1	—	1	1	5
April	6	8	7	4	1	26
May	9	14	9	3	2	37
June	7	10	7	2	1	27
July	6	10	7	3	2	28
August	10	7	6	2	3	28
September	24	49	31	13	9	126
October	63	102	35	12	14	226
November to 23rd	19	14	10	3	13	59
TOTALS	149	216	113	43	49	570

20. *Number of Women applying to Leave Camp.*—About 20 have done so. If there were no objection on the part of the commandant of place to which they wished to go, the application was granted.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, and some of them are rationed, but not all.

22. *Coffins and Shrouds* have always been provided. The camp cemetery is the same as that of the town.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

(1.) The camp is soaked with enteric and the water is bad

Remove the camp to a healthy place with good water.

(2.) Double the hospital and remove every case with a temperature to hospital.

(3.) The present Superintendent has proved that he has no grasp of the importance of sanitation, and we feel bound to recommend that he should not be continued in his office.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, VOLKSRUST, 25TH AND 26TH NOVEMBER 1901.

This camp is in a beautiful situation, on very high ground, and with splendid views in every direction. Majuba Hill is conspicuous to the south-west. The camp is a large one containing 5,200 people. It is divided into six sections, named alphabetically from A to F. It is entirely surrounded by a fence, and the place thus enclosed is at present full and is incapable of enlargement. This is a disadvantage to the camp; tents in which there have been cases of infectious disease, and which ought therefore to be struck cannot be taken down and the ground disinfected, because there is no room in the camp to pitch the tents elsewhere. A peculiarity of this camp is that a roll-call of all the adult males is taken every morning at 9 o'clock. Men who work in town are allowed to answer to the roll-call later in the day.

The Superintendent is Mr. G. M. King, he has been at Volksrust camp since August 18th or 19th.

1. *Water Supply.*—The same as that of the town. Springs in the neighbouring hills feed a reservoir some miles from the camp and from the reservoir the water is conveyed into the camp by pipes. There are nine stand-pipes in the camp and it is intended to put up two more. The water supply is unlimited and it has every appearance of being first-rate in quality. It is clear and bright. A sample has been sent to be analysed. No tent is more than 120 yards from a stand-pipe.

Washing Clothes.—There are streams on each side of the camp. The one on the right runs close to the dumping ground for rubbish, and the women have been forbidden to use it. However, some persist in going there and washing in the dirty water. The other stream is good, and although muddy with rain on the day of our visit, a clear stream runs into it which can also be used. The banks of both streams are steep, and as there is plenty of water already in camp in stand-pipes, it would be a good plan to have some wash-houses at the lower end of the camp; there is good drainage here, with a steep descent towards the river.

Bath-houses.—There are three in Section E for women and three in Section A for men. They are used and appreciated. On one of the days of our visit, 77 children and 15 women had used the women's baths. They are open every day from 2 p.m. till the evening. Two women caretakers are in charge of the bath-houses, dirty children are occasionally ordered to be washed by the camp officials, and the order is carried out by the caretakers. Soap and towels are provided gratis.

2. *Sanitation.*—The pail system is adopted; the pails are emptied and disinfected every night by the same contractor who works for the town. There are 19 latrines, 10 for women and 9 for men, duly labelled; as usual, there is far more accommodation for men than for women. There is no special accommodation for children. The fouling of the ground round some of the slop casks and women's latrines is probably due in part to the absence of special accommodation for children. One large slop cask could hardly be approached. The earth of the floors needs scraping and renewing. Latrine No. 13 for boys and latrine No. 3 for men were especially dirty.

Disposal of Dust, &c.—There are little dust heaps all over the camp, not in pails or bins. The heaps are removed by wagons to a dumping ground outside the camp garden fence, which was very bad, and much needed improvement.

Wet Refuse.—For this there are large casks and a number of pails distributed over the camp. Their contents are put into slop carts belonging to the town, which are at work every day in the camp. These carts discharge their contents on to the ground outside the garden fence near the rubblish dumping ground. The provision of casks and pails is good. There are two sanitary inspectors, one for each half of the camp, and 36 camp sanitary police, 6 for each section. These have 12 black boys to assist them, and there is also a scavenging gang of 12 Boer boys, aged about 14 or 15, who

load up the ash heaps and clear the litter out of the camp. Good rules have been issued for the guidance of the camp sanitary police in matters relating to health. The men are on duty, in three watches, night and day, namely, from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., from 4 p.m. to midnight, and from 12, midnight, to 6 a.m.

3. *Housing.*—There are 200 marquees and 1,100 bell tents, also a few tin houses. A good many families have a marquee to themselves. The rule is not to put more than 5 in a bell tent or more than 12 in a marquee. There was no overcrowding in the tents, a large number of families had two tents, and a few had three. At the east end of the camp, however, the wagons and tents were much too close together, and people were sleeping in the wagons; if infectious disease broke out in this part of the camp, it would certainly spread rapidly. The camp is, in general, on a good slope, and well drained, but Section F is rather hollow. One marquee was occupied by the school teacher, Mrs. Wohlhuter, her child, aged $2\frac{1}{2}$, and two young nephews. It was divided into four rooms, viz., a good-sized sitting-room, which was half the marquee, a tiny pantry or kitchen with an oil-stove in it, a neat bedroom for Mrs. Wohlhuter and her baby, and another little bedroom for her nephews. The whole was very neat and well cared for.

4. *Rations.*—The smallest meat ration which we have seen in any camp was being distributed at Volksrust, viz., 1 lb. of tinned meat per week to each adult, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. to each child. The head storekeeper told us that he had distributed nothing but tinned meat for six or seven weeks. The people in the camp said they had had nothing but tinned meat for three, four, and six months. It was represented to them that all these statements could not be accurate. We asked the storekeeper to refer to his books, and he then found that the last issue of fresh meat had been given out in August, it was, therefore, more than three months ago. The storekeeper gave us his ration list in writing, showing that he only gave 1 lb. tinned meat per head per week. He gives 3 lbs. of fresh meat when it is from captured stock, and 2 lbs. when fresh meat is bought. We were assured that the issue of fresh meat was to be resumed next week. The stock lately had been too poor to kill; sheep had only weighed about 15 lbs., there had also been much disease among the cattle.

Grocery rations are issued on Mondays and Wednesdays. The people would much like a ration of vegetables, and Mr. King was going to get a supply of potatoes and onions from Natal. One bottle of milk is being issued to all children under three daily. It is made with condensed milk mixed with boiling water. The milk-issuing place was not clean or tidy; tins of milk were standing open in the sun, and the floor of the shed was of loose earth. We hope the new camp matron when she comes will see that the issue of milk is done with far greater order and attention to cleanliness. There is a soup kitchen, and soup is distributed to about 30 sick people daily.

5. *Kitchens.*—All cooking is done separately by each family.

6. *Fuel.*—The allowance for adults is 20 lbs. coal and 12 lbs. wood per head per week, and half this quantity for children. The people complained a good deal of the insufficiency of fuel, and a good many of them buy oil for cooking.

7. *The Slaughter-place* had not been used since August. The place is about 300 yards from the camp, out of sight at the back of a rise in the ground.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—A great deal has been done in this camp to provide the people with kartels. A note is made of all the families without them, and they are constantly being made in the carpenters' shops, where six carpenters are employed. On one of the days of our visit we saw four kartels ready to be sent out; there was a good stock of wood and more was coming. There had also been a large issue of blankets. About 500 new arrivals had recently come in, in a very destitute condition. If it were not for this, probably the whole camp would have been supplied before now with kartels.

9. *Clothing.*—A large quantity had been given away by the Netherlands Bystands Committee. This stock was now nearly exhausted, and the Superintendent was applying to Pretoria for clothing materials. We saw layettes, &c., sent from Pretoria, ready to send out in the relief matron's office. The people in camp looked very tairly well clothed.

10. *Shops.*—Poynton's. Besides this shop there were two or three just by the camp gate, selling temperance drinks, sweets, fruit, and vegetables. Poynton's store was well stocked with such things as dates, sweets, tongues, butter, lard, golden syrup, &c. The man in charge said he sold a "tremendous lot of sweet-stuff." His highest takings in any one month had been 1,030*l.*, the lowest 360*l.* He said he could do better but for the fact that there were 10 men going round the camp touting for customers for the shops in the town of Volksrust.

11. *Hospital.*—There is no hospital accommodation at present in the camp itself. The hospital is in a building formerly used as the hotel on the other side of the railway, and is about a quarter of a mile from the camp. This building, together with marquees in its immediate vicinity, affords accommodation for 79 patients. It was opened in April. The whole is exceedingly well managed by the matron, Miss Bartman. The hospital is in beautiful order in all its departments, and Miss Bartman has succeeded single-handed in thoroughly training her 14 Boer probationers, and has made them into trustworthy nurses. The medical staff consists of Dr. Hamilton, P.M.O., and Dr. Craster. There are also a qualified dispenser and an assistant, the latter taken from among the refugees.

With the exception of two beds, the hospital was full at the date of our visit, and it appears to us to be necessary either to reduce the size of the camp or to erect more hospital accommodation, with a corresponding increase of the nursing and medical staff. For several reasons we should prefer to see the size of the present camp reduced by quite 2,000. There is a great deal of enteric in the camp, over 50 cases are at present in the hospital, and owing to want of room it is impossible to strike those tents in which there have been enteric cases, disinfect the ground, and erect the tents in a fresh place. Both the doctors consider the water supply good, and that the enteric is not due to it, but to the actual fouling of the ground in the tents which poisons the soil, infects the whole family, and spreads the disease from tent to tent.

The system of reporting illness is at present faulty, it being practically left to the people themselves, but as a new camp matron is expected shortly, and the reporting of sickness will be one of the most important parts of her work, we think it unnecessary to describe the present system in detail.

The disinfecting and boiling of enteric linen is satisfactorily dealt with in the hospital. The drainage from the hospital washing ground was not good, being too near the last hospital marquee. We would suggest that the hospital linen should continue to be boiled and disinfected at the present place, but that the washing should be done in the river.

Dr. Hamilton complained that he had written twice to the Superintendent for a destructor for enteric stools. Suitable Kaffir pots for this purpose had been in camp six weeks, but the request of the doctor was disregarded, and at the date of our visit no destructor was available. We think that the doctor's request on such an important matter ought to have been at once complied with.

There is much sickness in the camp, many light cases of scurvy, diarrhœa, whooping cough, dysentery, &c.; there have been about 12 cases of cancrum oris, and four of diphtheria, but the chief disease, as before mentioned, if enteric.

15. *Camp Matron.*—A camp matron, who is a trained nurse, is coming very shortly with two nurses, also trained, to work with her. Each of these will have six probationers under her, and a thorough system of tent-to-tent visiting and nursing where necessary will, we hope, be organised. Mrs. Pate has been acting for some time as relief matron. She dispenses such medical comforts as reach the camp from the Netherlands fund, oatmeal, maizen, milk, candles, &c. The medical comforts provided by the Government are issued either by the storekeeper or the dispenser. Mrs. Pate

also makes the soup for the soup kitchen and distributes Government clothing, blankets, layettes, &c. We understood that Mrs Pate was about to leave and join her relatives in Johannesburg.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—Rev. Knobel is resident in camp. He was at the date of our visit in bad health, and we did not see him. He is chairman of the relief committee. Mr. King spoke in the highest terms of him.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Mr. King said that if a man was insubordinate he was sent to dig graves for three days without pay. He had only had three cases of this kind. If women were troublesome they were sent to the Provost Marshal. Some really bad women had been sent down to Natal.

15. *Education.*—The Superintendent and schoolmaster were very proud of their schools and said they were the best in the two colonies. The names of 1,100 children were on the books, and the average daily attendance was 950; the head master is Mr. Van der Berght, a Hollander. He organizes the camp school and also a fee-paying school for refugees in town; he was described to us as a "good little fellow, but can't speak English." The latter part of this description was certainly accurate. We heard some very good part singing from the children, who had been taught on the tonic sol-fa system. One of the principal assistant teachers is Mrs. Wohluter (already mentioned). She is a very good teacher and has a large class. Her husband is a minister and was formerly with her at Volksrust camp. He was sent away for preaching political sermons, and is now in the prisoner-of-war camp, Ladysmith.

16. *Occupations.*—A capital garden, on the allotment system, has been started. Each allotment is 30 yards by 15 yards, and there are 200 of them. More could have been disposed of if more land had been available. The gardens are enclosed in a fence at the lower end of the camp, and no one can enter without showing his or her allotment ticket. This is very necessary in order to prevent thefts. Water is turned on from time to time for irrigation purposes. Shoemaking and carpentering are also successfully carried on in camp. The shoemakers are paid in kind; the leather and tools are provided by the Government, and for every three pairs made the shoemaker is allowed to keep one pair, for every 10 pairs resoled he is allowed one pair.

17. *Orphans.*—There was only one case in this camp in which payment had to be made for the care of orphans. A woman was being paid 3*l.* a month for looking after three orphan children, they were rationed as well. We think this very good pay. In England, the usual payment for boarded out children is 4*s.* 6*d.* to 5*s.* a week, and for this the foster parents feed and clothe the children entirely.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Return of the Ages of those who have Died.*—

Month.	Under 1.	1–12.	12–40.	Over 40.	Total.
July - - - -	18	19	7	5	49
August - - - -	23	181	35	9	248
September - - - -	23	83	16	7	129
October - - - -	17	21	6	2	46
TOTALS - - -	81	304	64	23	472

20. *How many Women have asked to Leave camp life?*—Very few; if the military authorities at the place to which they wish to go are agreeable, permission is granted.

21. *Are Servants allowed?*—Yes, but they are not rationed.

22. *Are Shrouds, Coffins, &c. provided?*—Invariably. The only charge to the relatives of the deceased person is 1*s.* as a burial fee. The burial ground is between two and three miles from the camp. The mortuaries, both in camp and hospital, were clean and well kept.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

1. We urge that this camp ought to be reduced in numbers. The present camping ground is not sufficiently large for the numbers congregated upon it, it does not admit of changing the ground upon which tents are pitched, which ought always to be done after enteric and some other illnesses. The wagons should be removed out of camp into a separate laager.

2. The Superintendent should be instructed at once to put up the incinerator for enteric stools, the material for which has been for some time at his disposal.

3. Cases of cancrum oris should be placed in bell tents by themselves.

4. The control of the milk mixing, now, as we understand, in the hands of the assistant dispenser, a refugee, should be taken from him and entrusted to the new camp matron.

5. A washing table should be provided for the hospital washing, and the hospital washing removed to another place. Wash-houses for the camp should be put up as soon as piping can be obtained.

6. The refuse should be carted further away from the camp and properly buried. More latrine accommodation should be provided for women.

7. Bring up the meat ration to the level of other camps, and adopt a more expeditious method of issuing fuel and milk.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, NYLSTROOM, 19TH NOVEMBER 1901.

This camp was begun on 1st June 1901, with—

87 men,
270 women,
386 children—total 743.

It lies in a valley close to what is called the Little Nyl River, and is surrounded by hills formerly covered with thick bush up to the gardens of the village. There was also very thick bush between the village and the railway station nearly a mile away. There are no blockhouses near the camp, and under cover of the bush the Boers on commando could come quite close and even it is said sleep in the village. At first the refugees slept in houses, churches, and even in the jail, and as their number increased tents were scattered about between the houses, and the whole place had a very untidy appearance. Now this is all changed.

After crossing a deep donga on the way from the station a broad road running the whole length of the village is reached. On the right side of this, between it and the river, are scattered cottages with fine gardens full of fruit trees, and with large crops of vegetables and mealies coming on. On the left side is the new camp with tall gum trees between it and the road and the Dopper Church now used as a school. Still further on the same side of the road are the old Landrost's offices, a fine building now used as Superintendent's office, ration and store rooms. Still further on the same side are pretty cottages with palms and vines growing in the gardens, and here on the right side are fields of mealies and some thriving bananas. As the road turns up the hill it passes between the Reformed and the Dutch Reformed churches, and as regards the village, ends at the cemetery with its row of little graves marking that the measles epidemic had also visited Nylstroom and taken its toll.

At present the bush is being all cleared away round the village up to the station and across the river. It is hoped that besides taking away cover from the enemy, this may do something towards making this pretty, but notoriously unhealthy, village a little less feverish than it has been in the past.

The present Superintendent, Mr. Duncan, took over the camp on the 3rd September, and at once moved all the tents to their present site, a gentle

sandy slope, and proceeded to organize the whole work of the camp in a very thorough manner.

The number in camp on 18th November 1901 was 1,852. Of these 1,275 live in camp; 577 live in the village.

1. *Water Supply, Washing Clothes and Personal Washing.*—There are three sources from which water is regularly drawn:—(1) the river; (2) a well with pump; (3) a spring in the bank of the river. These have all been analysed; the spring was the best, the river second and the well third. Now the well would be first, as since the rainy season began the river is very muddy and the little spring has ceased to flow properly.

The people draw the water for themselves from the river, but there is one water cart for the hospital, and another seems to be used generally.

Close to the well there is a large built-in tank into which water can be pumped through a long pipe. This is boiled and anyone can have it, but although nearer than the river few avail themselves of it. A cooling tank is to be added so that boiled water can be had either hot or cold.

A man in a house close by takes charge of this and says the people are too lazy to fetch it. The fact is 90 per cent. of the people are from the district, have drunk this river water all their lives, and cannot understand our objection to their doing so. There are no baths at present, but shelters with baths are going to be erected.

Washing Clothes.—This can be done at three different places, *above, not in, the river.* Notice boards point out the wash-places, and policemen guard them. The water is drawn from the river. The first washing trough, with shelter overhead, was put up during the Commission's visit. There are to be three of these for general use, and one small shelter for the hospital washing alone. In addition to the shelters, there is a large boiler for boiling the hospital clothes.

2. *Sanitation and Disposal of Refuse.*—The sanitary staff consists of five white men and four native boys.

The Transport—Two wagons with teams. There are eight latrines in the camp. These are emptied once a day by the native boys, and the sanitary officer's business is to see that latrines are cleaned and disinfected. The people misuse these, and the Superintendent is going to adopt the same plan as at Barberton to prevent their present bad habits, especially in the children's latrine.

The contents of latrine pails are taken a long distance, thrown into trenches with chloride of lime, and covered with earth.

Proper sanitary and slop carts are needed.

There are small private latrines through the village and these are all attended to and looked after in the same way by the camp sanitary staff.

Round three sides of the camp are little three-sided bins made of brick, and down the middle of the camp are small round galvanized tanks. Into these everyone must throw their rubbish and they are emptied twice a day and well kept.

The ground between and round the tents is also kept very clean, and the veldt is very free from all fouling. The village is also looked after, but cannot, with its scattered rubbish heaps in all sort of holes and corners, be kept up to the same level as the camp.

Mr. Duncan chose the man for looking after rubbish removal, because he had noticed how beautifully he kept his own cottage and yard.

3. *Housing.*—Tents or houses. Bell tents, 16 yards from pole to pole. The camp section consists of bell tents, with the exception of one row of square tents belonging to the people themselves, and the Isolation Camp for new arrivals, which has shelters, *i.e.*, square frame houses. All tents and shelters are well pitched in correct lines, with fire-places also in line and only on one side. The tent flaps are taken up regularly and the tents turned out once a week. The village section of the camp is also well kept, the poorest cottages are clean, and the bedding is regularly turned out; this is compulsory. Tents must not have more than five to six occupants: five is the regulation number. As yet there are no trenches round the camp. After a very heavy rain-storm

the Commission found no pools of water; the ground is so sandy, all rain disappears at once. The bigger the storm the tighter also the tent poles seem to stick, never a tent comes down. At the same time the camp foreman watches the tents, and he may be seen, with a native boy, trundling a wheelbarrow with some tent covers anxiously looking after leaky tents.

4. *Rations.*—These are given out, as before stated, in the general offices. The people come to a window, outside of which is a small barrier, a policeman inside hands in their tickets, and hands out the rations. Inside are the storekeeper and his issuers. The storekeeper takes the ticket, reads out the quantities, and all the issuers work simultaneously and very quietly. The rations are measured and not weighed. A grumble was heard from the outside "flour, short weight"; swiftly the flour is back and on the big scale; it was exactly right. The one complaint was about the flour being too fine, the people begged for Boer meal which is far better for them. The samp or crushed mealies are much liked and of excellent quality. Samp is preferred to rice. There had been no fresh meat for a month, but the people sometimes slaughter a beast, and Poynton's store has also a small butchery where the people can occasionally buy a little fresh meat.

Milk.—Every child under three gets a bottle of milk per day as a ration instead of meat. This milk is issued mixed in the proportion of one tin of Ideal milk to three bottles. The milk as mixed seemed very good. All boiling and mixing is done in an iron shelter and the milk issue is practically over by 8 a.m. Some of the people are too lazy to come or send for the little one's milk. All boilers and utensils were kept clean. Some of the people have cows and there is plenty of grazing, but the owners are conscious of an ever present danger of having their stock carried off by their friends outside. Rations are over by 11 a.m. and are given out three days a week.

5. *Kitchens, central or otherwise.*—There are no public kitchens, but ovens round camp, built by Superintendent; a certain number of families bake in each oven.

6. *Fuel.*—All wood; very abundant from neighbouring bush brought; in by wagon. In addition, brushwood to any extent can be had for the picking up.

7. *The Slaughter-place* is on the other side of a deep donga from the camp, little used but well kept and looked after; quite clean.

8. *Bed arrangements.*—As usual a mixture of all kinds of beds including kartels. 13 stretchers have been given out by the camp matron and wood has now arrived for kartels, which cost 7*s.* 6*d.* when made. More than half the tents have beds, and no sick persons were lying on the floors of the tents. All women going to be confined are given kartels if they have not one already. In one tent where there was no bed there was sitting a big strong man who was far from poor. He had been offered wood for a kartel but was too lazy to make one, too stingy to buy, or pay the carpenter to make one. Over 200 blankets had been given out by the camp matron.

9. *Clothing.*—Since the 23rd of September the Government have distributed 389 dresses, 851 pieces of underclothing, 230 kappies, 252 suits, 252 sheets, 32 pairs of boots, and other articles of clothing. All the clothing, with the exception of the boy's suits and some of the boots, have been made in camp.

10. *Stock and Prices at Poynton's shop.*—The shop is well stocked with the right class of goods, and in addition there is a small butchery which supplies the hospital and soup kitchen and some of the refugees. The prices in this store are fixed by proclamation and are reported as fair. Nylstroom is a small camp and yet this store receives in cash 700*l.* to 1,300*l.* per month. Once in this month and once before the takings in one day have been more than 100*l.*

11. *Hospital.*—The staff consists of—

One doctor.
One English matron, certified.
One night nurse, certified.
One better class probationer.
Five Boer girls.
One dispenser and servants.

The hospital itself consists of a cottage and two marquees containing in all 29 beds. With the unhealthy season coming on unless the camp is moved this hospital will need enlarging to 50 beds, and as the matron is leaving, another trained nurse is urgently needed now. The hospital was well kept, but from the smallness of the rooms the beds were rather close together.

There is a good operating room and fortunately some large tanks for rain-water. All water is boiled and filtered and enteric stools burnt. Everything round the little hospital is neat and tidy, but the marquee floors should be hardened and a latrine for patients erected, separate from that of the nurses. Unfortunately the death-rate of this hospital is high, out of 133 patients 50 have died, but out of this 50, 22 came in too late to do anything but increase the death date. It is true kindness to compel the sick to come into hospital early.

Ten bottles of cow's milk are supplied per day.

The out-patient department is very good. There is a waiting room with seats, a doctor's room, and a dispensary, all under one roof. The patients come in at one door and pass out at another, and there is quiet and order; the average number is 45 per day.

After attending the hospital and outpatients, the doctor goes to the camp. Here the camp matron's assistants visit every morning, early, and report to the camp matron any cases of sickness; she at once sees these cases before entering them on the doctor's list, to make sure that they are real, and not merely requests for candles and hospital comforts. When satisfied, she hands the list to the doctor; she does not go round with him, but visits again later in the day, to see that his instructions are carried out.

Nylstroom is very unhealthy in summer, and the home of malaria. 90 per cent. of the refugees belong to the district, and are saturated with fever. There has been much inter-marriage and consequent weakness, and the health prospects of this camp are therefore far from hopeful.

The number of deaths is as follows :—

——	June.	July.	August.	September.	October.	Total.
Under 1 month - - - -	2	2	3	4	1	12
Between 1 month and 1 year - -	2	6	7	13	6	34
„ 1 year and 12 years - -	1	25	84	26	34	170
„ 12 years and 40 years -	2	2	16	16	14	50
„ 40 „ 50 „ -	1	—	—	—	1	2
„ 50 „ over - -	—	1	1	1	2	5
	8	36	111	60	58	273

August was the measles month.

12. *Camp Matron and Assistants.*—There is a lady, Mrs. de Jongh, who is at present both camp and relief matron. Under her are 10 Boer girls, who not only inspect the tents, but carry a big broom along and brush out a tent when the owner is ill. The camp matron also gives and cuts out all the clothing, and has a most excellent system of doing so. All the clothing is made up in the camp free of charge, brought back to the matron, and given out by her. Any child coming for new clothes must be bathed and thoroughly trim. The matron has also a knitting and fancy-work class for the young girls, and teaches them English. It is evident she takes a great interest in her work.

13. *Dutch Minister.*—There is none. Deacons do the work.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—If people behave badly, suddenly, early in the morning, without warning, they are sent to the coast. Doing this once or twice has had an excellent effect. The Superintendent reports morals fair.

15. *School and Equipment.*—The school is held in an old church and a large marquee.

The school is managed by an English head-teacher with five Dutch assistants who teach in English. The carpenter has helped with desks and all the children are seated, but there is a want of modern equipment. The head

teacher, Mr. Hannion, takes care that his class understand the English they read; there is a delightful class of little ones in the large marquee, but real modern, lively infant-school teaching is wanted for these. Books are very scarce also for the senior classes, one for three pupils being about the average. The number on the roll is 360; the average attendance 270.

16. *Occupations.*—Carpentering, shoemaking, gardening, &c. There are two carpenters, who turn out very creditable work, but they say taking pupils has been a failure, as the boys only try for a few days and then do not come back. The shoemaker has 10 pupils, and turns out some good work; his difficulty is want of leather.

There is a basket-maker in the camp, but he can only get his material at the risk of being sniped. A large number of plots of ground have been given out to the people on the half or one-third system. The mealies and vegetables are coming on and the plots are well looked after. Every piece of land that can be cultivated is being taken up, as scurvy has already put in an appearance and the Superintendent is anxious to have a large quantity of green food.

The staple industry of Nylstroom is, however, wood-chopping in the bush. The wood is sent by rail to Pretoria, to be distributed to the other camps. There are 40 woodmen, who get extra meat and 2*s.* per day when working; neither pay nor extra rations are given on "off" days. This is the rule for all work throughout the camp. 1*s.* 6*d.* a load is given to men who transport the wood, either to station or camp, with their own wagons and donkeys.

The estimated value of wood supplied to other camps is about 250*l.* per month, and in addition Nylstroom supplies itself and burns no coal; it also supplies the military with poles.

17. There are some orphans staying with friends. The subject of orphans, and providing for them, will have to be carefully considered in the near future.

18. *Local Committees.*—None.

19. *Have Women asked to go to Friends?*—A few have done so.

20. *Are Coloured Servants allowed?*—They are allowed—not rationed; and in some cases sleep in a small separate encampment, or in wagons or outbuildings.

21. *Are Bodies properly Shrouded?*—Always. The coffins are made in camp, and part of the jail is used as a mortuary and kept clean and disinfected.

Recommendations.

(1.) It should be seriously considered whether this camp should not be moved. Nylstroom is notoriously a fever district and it will be difficult to retain a good staff there in the coming fever months. The people, although belonging to the place, will suffer severely, and it will be placed to our credit. A further reason for moving the camp is the precarious character of the meat supply.

All the following recommendations depend on the decision regarding the first one.

(2.) Enclose the camp with a good fence; it is at present easy to enter and leave.

(3.) Have a new cover made for the well, and two cooling tanks erected for cooling the boiled water.

The people should be almost forced to use the boiled drinking water, as diarrhœa is very bad in camp.

(4.) The hospital to be enlarged and the floors in the marquees made hard, and a separate latrine for patients erected.

(5.) The soup kitchen, just begun to be put under the charge of the camp matron, vigorously carried on, and enlarged as required.

(6.) That Boer meal should be substituted for flour, and samp given out alternately with rice.

REPORT ON BURGHER CAMP, PIETERSBURG, 17TH AND 18TH NOVEMBER 1901.

This camp was started by Mr. Tucker, the present Superintendent, on 11th May 1901. Previous to that time about 1,000 refugees had been rationed and housed in the town. The camp consists now of 3,559 persons, of whom 889 are men, 1,242 are women, and 1,428 children.

There is also a separate camp of 162 coloured burghers, 49 men, 58 women, and 55 children. They are the grand-children and descendants of a certain Kourad Buys and of various Kaffir wives. The present commandant is a big burly negro, who rules his camp with great discretion, keeping everything neat and orderly. The children are mostly black, but here and there the Boer types appear up. The Government school inspector hopes to start a school for the children. They cannot be classed with Europeans, but yet their parents claim to be burghers, and strongly object to being called "Natives."

1. *Water Supply.*—The water supply in this camp is taken from the Sand River, which, at a distance of about 700 yards, runs along the west side of the camp. There is no town or Kaffir location on its banks for many miles up stream. The river is patrolled every morning in case dead animals should have fallen into it. No cattle are allowed to cross nearer than one mile above the camp. The water has been examined locally and found excellent, a specimen has also been sent to Pretoria for analysis.

The water for drinking purposes is pumped from the river into casks, which are carried on eight wagons to the camp, the water is there re-pumped into three large galvanised iron cisterns placed at intervals along the centre of the camp. The approximate quantity delivered daily is 7,000 gallons. The tanks are placed on brick foundations and are covered, with the exception of a hole for the hose. This is evidently intended to have a lid, which, however, is not there. The tanks are supplied with two taps each. The surrounding ground was very wet; this was due to careless use of the taps. It was stated that both tanks and casks were turned over and cleaned constantly, as when the river was in flood much sand came down. On the second day of the Commission's visit the river was thick and yellow, but the doctor said that even then there was very little organic matter in it, and that no increase of sickness was noticeable.

Three 400-gallon tanks are to be supplied for boiling all the drinking water.

Bath-house.—One for women has just been made near the river, below the spot from whence the drinking water is taken, but it is not yet in working order.

2. *Sanitation.*—Pail system. The bi-daily emptying and cleaning are done in camp by natives under white supervision. Mr. Runsburg is the head of the sanitary staff. The latrine pails are extremely clean and well kept. A double set of pails is used; the contents are carted to trenches more than half-a-mile from camp, one trench being dug for each day and covered in as used. The pails are thoroughly cleaned with sand and lime in the river, a good way below the washing place.

The latrines built of wood and iron are 22 in number; all were well kept, with scrubbed seats and well-sanded floors. Every latrine had a notice outside "For men and boys," or "For women and children." The condition of the ground inside the camp and on the surrounding veldt and along the banks of the river was excellent. Each man is responsible for the cleanliness of his tent and of a given area round it. 50 authorised dust-bins of brick are placed in lines all through the camp. These are emptied twice daily. A staff of seven "section men" are responsible for the general cleanliness of the camp.

Scavenging gangs of small boys go round three times a week to pick up anything left lying about.

Dust Heaps.—The dry refuse is carted to a large heap about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the camp. The sanitation of the camp reflects great credit on Mr. Rensburg

and his staff. Mr. Tucker hopes shortly to have tubs for wet refuse, for which at present there is no provision.

3. *Housing.*—The camp is well pitched, about 2 miles from the town, on a gentle slope between the railway and the Sand River. These two form the boundary on the west and east. The northern side is fenced in but the southern is unenclosed to allow of the camp extending in that direction. It is, however, patrolled by burgher police. Very little trenching is required, as the soil is extremely porous.

The camp consists of 700 bell tents, 50 very large marquees, and 30 medium ones. The average number in the tents is 5, in medium marquees 12, and in large marquees 20. The Commission saw no overcrowding. The Superintendent complained that some of the tents were not watertight, and he has applied for some old ones to put over those which leak. The distance from pole to pole is 15 yards by 12 yards in the old part of the camp and rather more in the newer portion.

Two very good sets of sanitary rules have been drawn up for the inmates of the camp and for the section overseers.

These men are carrying out their duties very satisfactorily, and the Commission have seen few cleaner, tidier camps.

4. *Rations.*—The butchery, rationing store, and medical comforts store are all to form part of a large iron building with a wooden floor which has just been erected. Groceries are issued weekly, and rations being measured instead of weighed.

The grocery issue takes from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., but the superintendent promised to try the "block" system, which ought to expedite matters. As soon as sufficient school teachers have been sent us, a rule will be made that children of school age will not be allowed to fetch rations. An addition of 2 ozs. is made when raw coffee beans are issued. Bully beef has been given out for the last four weeks, no captured stock having been brought in, and the burghers in camp having refused to kill their own cattle. A fresh meat issue was, however, to begin again this week.

Milk (mixed with boiled water) is to become a ration for all children under three.

5. *Kitchens.* — The Commission saw some very neat stoves made of galvanized iron with cross wires to form a grate; they burned coal perfectly. There are no public bake-ovens, but the Superintendent supplies bricks, and families club together for building and using them.

6. *Fuel.*—The ration of coal is one bucketful per family weekly, but more is always given if required. Burghers who possess teams and wagons go out once a week some 15 miles off to fetch wood. They are not paid for doing this, but are allowed to keep half of what they bring in for themselves and their friends. Mr. Tucker distributes the other half among widows and those who cannot get it for themselves. The plan seems to work well, and there were no complaints of lack of fuel.

7. *Slaughter-places.* — Two, one on each side of the river—the one on the nearest side being only used in times of flood. Both were clean and orderly.

8. *Beds and Bedding.*—About three-quarters of the tents have either bedsteads or kartels in them. More will be made as soon as the wood indented for arrives.

About 3,500 blankets have been issued by Government, and there are still plenty in store. Waterproof sheets have also been issued.

9. *Clothing.*—A large amount of Government clothing has been distributed by the camp matron. She told a member of the Commission she did not think there was any real destitution at present. There is still a plentiful supply of material in stock.

Mr. Schultz's Committee in Cape Town has sent up a large consignment of goods. Many things, such as quaker oats, soap, candles, jellies, blankets, being duplicates of what the Government had already been issuing as "medical comforts."

10. *Shops.*— Poynton Bros. had a large well-stocked shop, and their prices seemed moderate. The Superintendent has arranged for a vegetable auction in camp twice a week; the produce will come from the town and this will be much appreciated.

11. *Hospital Staff*—

Dr. Henderson.
Mr. Williams (qualified dispenser).
Two burgher assistants.
Trained { Miss Webb (hospital matron).
Miss Pomeroy (assistant hospital matron).
4 local assistants.
1 hospital orderly.
Servants.

The hospital consists of—

4 E.P. tents, containing 6 beds each.
1 marquee, „ 2 „
1 bell tent, „ 1 bed.

It accommodates 27 patients, too small a number for the size of the camp. The hospital grounds are enclosed by a wire fence, and everything is well kept. Dr. Henderson is capable and fills well the position he occupies. We feel, however, that for a camp of over 3,500 people, especially with the amount of sickness there has been and still is, that one medical officer is not sufficient.

Dr. Henderson sees out-patients between 9 and 10 a.m. He visits the hospital at 10 a.m. and devotes the rest of the day to visits in camp.

Cases of sickness requiring the doctor, are reported to him by the camp matron. She has as yet not had time to go round with the doctor. The Commission thinks this an important omission, as the matron cannot carry out the doctor's orders so effectually, if she does not visit the tents with him. The risk of omitting cases of illness is also avoided if the matron accompanies the doctor.

The chief diseases in camp are malaria, marasmus, whooping cough and diarrhœa; there are also many light cases of scurvy. Measles attacked this camp during July and August, seriously raising the death rate. There have been two cases of cancrum oris, both fatal. Preparations have been made for the treatment of enteric should it appear. Two cauldrons have arrived; one is to be bricked in as a destructor for enteric stools and the other will be available for boiling infected linen.

The drinking water for the patients is boiled and kept in a 10-gallon cooking pot in an empty tent.

The hospital kitchen is good. The soup for the out-patients is made there; 10 gallons of this is issued daily at 10 a.m. to suitable cases on camp matron's orders. Medical comforts, of which there is a good and varied supply, are issued on the doctor's order by the storekeeper, Mr. Watt, whose store is a model of cleanliness. Stimulants are given out on the doctor's order only. On an average two bottles of brandy are used daily in the hospital and three of brandy and port wine in the lines.

Milk.—80 tins of milk are mixed with boiled (not filtered) water daily, in the proportion of one tin to three bottles, and are issued, under the supervision of the dispenser, between 8.30 and 10 a.m. There are three 6-gallon pots for boiling water just outside the dispensary. These are supposed to be boiled, when the milk issue is over, for the purpose of rinsing out the barrels, pails, &c., but on the day of the Commission's visit the water at 10.30 was not boiling, and there were complaints of difficulty in keeping the two milk-barrels sweet. As there was some milk in the bottom of each barrel, and as there were no covers in use, this is not to be wondered at.

The facts should be noted, (1st) Dr. Henderson believes that the pork which the people buy from the local butcher is a source of the diarrhœa in camp; (2nd) it was stated by the doctor that the camp was free of

measles until a number of infected people were sent there by a former Superintendent from "Irene Camp."

The hospital matron and her assistants mess together and are very comfortable.

The four local assistants can get soup and tea at the hospital, but draw rations and live at home. Dr. Henderson lives in camp. There are about 78 refugees, women and children, living in the town, whose husbands are serving with our troops. It is now under consideration who shall attend them medically. As has been already pointed out, Dr. Henderson has more than enough to do in camp.

12. *Camp Matron.*—Mrs. Pittendreigh has hitherto acted as camp and relief matron, but the duties are now to be divided. Her staff consists of one clerk, two British line nurses, and ten burgher line nurses; these latter sleep with their families in camp. The matron does not find them very satisfactory. She cannot rely on their impartiality and they insist on recommending their own friends for relief. It is evident, that although she has been in camp some months, she has not succeeded in getting together a good staff of Boer girls. Each nurse visits her own section in the early morning and reports all cases of sickness to the matron for the doctor's guidance. The doctor goes round alone and finally leaves a note for the matron, giving her directions about treatment, medical comforts, &c. for the various cases.

The nurses revisit the patients during the morning, the matron going with them to the more serious cases, and seeing the doctor's orders are carried out. In the afternoon the nurses again revisit the tents and note applications for clothing, the matron investigating them, if the applicants are unknown to her, and apportioning the material. She also dispenses all stimulants ordered by the doctor and initials all orders for medical comforts given by doctor or nurses.

The matron also visits all maternity cases.

One of the British nurses from the coast is leaving, but the other, Miss Keat, is very satisfactory. She takes great pride in various children who had come into camp sickly and weak from malarial fever caught in the low veldt. Thanks to better climate and to good and proper food, which she has often had to administer herself, these children are becoming strong and rosy. Miss Keat complained of the difficulty of getting at the truth on the clothing question. One nice old lady declared she had "nothing"; no less than *seven* petticoats were found upon her.

Miss Keat has started both sewing and singing classes, and she and Mrs. Pittendreigh are planning a Christmas tree for all the children in camp. Cooking classes and elementary health lectures are also being talked of.

13. *Minister of Religion.*—The Rev. Kruil was at one time minister, but has been removed by the military. Two elders now officiate. Mr. Tucker has performed 12 civil marriages, and three more couples will soon require his services.

14. *Discipline and Morals.*—Troublesome men are sent to the "Rest Camp," at Pretoria, and the Superintendent has hitherto had no trouble in managing the women.

15. *Education.*—The school consists of three large marquees, one medium ditto, three canvas shelters, and an office tent. The latter contains equipment, returns, &c., and also two large cauldrons full of lime juice and water, which the school children may drink *ad lib.* The Commission think that when the colder weather begins soup might well take the place of lime juice, a cupful being served out to each child. The Superintendent said it could easily be arranged, and both he and the headmaster approved highly of this idea. The children mostly come from malarial districts and require good feeding; but it is not always easy to ensure that they get the strengthening food intended for them. The headmaster, Mr. Fairhurst, an Englishman, seems very capable, and is keen about his work. There are 614 children on the roll and an average attendance of 545.

Another 400 or 500 children, he says, could easily be got to attend, as they are keen to learn. The Superintendent could also provide more shelters, but want of teachers makes any attempt to enlarge the school useless at present.

Out of the 12 assistants only two have any training, the remainder being inmates of the camp, and Mr. Fairhurst has to spend his time going from class to class showing his teachers how to teach. He also has the supervision of the town school, which we do not consider a satisfactory arrangement. Three more English teachers are said to be coming, but more than this number will be required if the most is to be made of the present unique opportunity for instilling ideas of truth and discipline into these children. There are 78 girls and lads over 16 attending the school at present. A night class for adults has also been started at their own request.

Mr. Fairhurst has organized games among the boys and football is now most popular. The school equipment is good, but pictures for object lessons are badly wanted.

16. *Occupations* are more varied than in many camps. The sewing class of 80 and singing class of 20 children have already been mentioned. Lime-burning on a small scale, tanning, brickmaking, shoemaking (canvas lawn-tennis shoes are made by one couple), a blacksmith's shop, reins making, and carpentering all thrive. Most of the school desks are made in camp, costing roughly only 15*s.* apiece. The Superintendent has a garden large enough to supply the hospital with vegetables. He has offered men plots to cultivate for themselves, but they have not responded very keenly, one excuse being the distance of the garden ground from the camp. A quantity of fresh seed has, however, just arrived, and Mr. Tucker is hopeful they may yet take to gardening.

17. *Orphans.*—There are about 100 orphans in camp. The Superintendent does not consider the children are as a rule properly fed and clothed by the people who offer to take them, and he is now anxious to get them gathered together into large marquees under the supervision of the camp matron, so as to ensure their being well cared for and also their being made to attend school regularly. The Commission do not feel able to express any opinion upon the suitability of this plan. The only instance we have seen of an orphanage in camp was very unsatisfactory.

18. *Local Committees.*—There are none.

19. *Death Rate:*—

Month.	Under 1.	1–5.	5–12.	12–20.	Over 20.	Total.
May	2	2	—	1	2	7
June	14	10	8	3	20	55
July	21	34	23	17	18	113
August	27	85	41	16	19	188
September	23	26	17	12	9	87
October	17	11	5	4	15	52
1–15 November	4	9	4	1	6	24
	108	177	98	54	89	526

20. *Women wishing to Leave.*—One woman has been sent to friends in Natal.

Servants are allowed, but are not rationed.

21. Grown up native servants are not allowed to sleep in camp.

22. All bodies are decently shrouded and coffined. The mortuary is in a bell tent and is well kept.

General Remarks.

This is one of the best managed camps the Commission have visited, and, as is always the case under such circumstances, the officials are loyally supporting one another. A large number of the refugees arrived from the

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low veldt absolutely saturated with malaria. One party of 21 persons had trekked north with the Boers all the way from Johannesburg and had finally surrendered at Pietersburg; eight of these people had died on the trek, one was lying dead in the waggon when they arrived, six died soon after, and the remaining six are only now slowly recovering, thanks to better climate, medical care, and good food. Another woman told a member of the Commission that out of her 18 children, 12 had died in the Waterberg district prior to their coming into camp.

Recommendations.

1. Some simple kind of washing table at the river washing-place is required.

2. Trenches are needed to carry off water from the drinking-water tanks, and stones to prevent the ground under the taps getting worn away and pools of stagnant water being formed; also covers for the small apertures at the top of the cisterns.

3. Another medical officer under Dr. Henderson should be appointed.

4. Five more marquees are required for the hospital, four for patients, and one in reserve to allow of the floors of those in use being re-made and disinfected occasionally.

5. The camp matron should go round the cases with the doctor.

6. Lime juice to be issued as a ration to all inmates of camp, there being much scurvy.

7. Only 2 ozs. of any stimulant should be given out at one time in the lines; cases requiring more should be admitted to hospital.

The filters ordered should be sent up immediately.

A bell tent and bath for washing patients before admitting them to hospital is very necessary.

8. No disinfectants should be used for cleaning the milk barrels and pails; they should be first rinsed with cold water, then scrubbed with soap, and finally scalded with boiling water.

9. More British teachers should be provided for the school as soon as possible.